United Nations S/PV.5164

Security Council

Sixtieth year

Provisional

5164th meeting

Wednesday, 20 April 2005, 10.25 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Wang Guangya	(China)
Members:	Algeria	Mr. Baali
	Argentina	Mr. Mayoral
	Benin	Mr. Adechi
	Brazil	Mr. Sardenberg
	Denmark	Ms. Løj
	France	Mr. Poirier
	Greece	Mrs. Papadopoulou
	Japan	Mr. Kitaoka
	Philippines	Mr. Baja
	Romania	Mr. Dumitru
	Russian Federation	Mr. Denisov
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Thomson
	United Republic of Tanzania	Mr. Mahiga
	United States of America	Mrs. Patterson

Agenda

Security Council mission

Briefing by the head of the Security Council mission to Haiti

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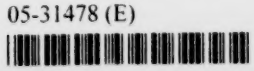
05-31478 (E)



The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Security Council mission

Briefing by the head of the Security Council mission to Haiti

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Mr. Ronaldo Mota Sardenberg, head of the Security Council mission to Haiti.

It is so decided.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

I should like to welcome the return of the members of the Council and the Secretariat who took part in the mission to Haiti.

I now call on Mr. Ronaldo Mota Sardenberg, head of the Security Council mission to Haiti.

Mr. Sardenberg: The mission of the Security Council visited Haiti from 13 to 16 April in conjunction with a visit by the Economic and Social Council's Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti. The mission and the Group acted in accordance with their respective mandates. Some of their meetings in Haiti were held in common.

I take this opportunity to thank the Haitian authorities for their hospitality and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Juan Gabriel Valdés, and his team for their support. In the same vein, I wish to commend the leadership and personnel of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) for the excellent and professional work they are performing, frequently under very trying conditions.

The visit by the Security Council mission, which I had the privilege to lead, was the first of that type to a Latin American or a Caribbean country. The decision to make it was adopted in the course of the open debate on Haiti, promoted by the delegation of Argentina during its presidency last January. Indeed, the further decision to implement the first decision was proposed by the delegations of Argentina and Brazil.

The activities of the mission benefited from a high degree of participation, as all 15 Council members were represented. Fourteen ambassadors were present, of whom 10 were Permanent Representatives, including the President of the Security Council himself. That attendance constituted a clear sign of the concern of the Council over the current crisis in Haiti and the need both for immediate action and for long-term solutions to Haiti's many problems.

The Council mission met with the members of the Transitional Government, including Interim President Boniface Alexandre and Interim Prime Minister Gerard Latortue, as well as with representatives of the main political parties and of civil society. In addition to its stay in Port-au-Prince, the mission visited the cities of Gonaïves and Cap Haïtien. It also met with MINUSTAH leaders, including the Force Commander and the Civilian Police Commissioner.

Members of the mission interacted with various Haitian actors and collected updated information regarding central aspects of the present situation in the country. In four different areas — the creation of a safe and secure environment; dialogue, elections and reconciliation; the observance of human rights; and social and economic development — the exchange of views was quite constructive and particularly useful.

Despite the tragic losses of four peacekeepers to date — one of which was of an accidental nature — the mission assessed the Haitian security situation as gradually improving, as compared to the second half of 2004. Since the deployment of most of its military and police forces last December, MINUSTAH has, in conformity with the mandate given by resolution 1542 (2004), conducted several successful security operations in various parts of the country, including the neighbourhoods of Port-au-Prince. Recently, MINUSTAH's police and military forces have been able to improve coordination with the Haitian National Police (HNP). It is recognized that, as foreseen in its mandate, one of MINUSTAH's main roles is that of assisting the Transitional Government, including HNP, in their tasks relating to the creation of a secure and stable environment.

Notwithstanding all the progress made, the security situation in Haiti remains fragile and there have been discussions on possible additional measures to assist the Transitional Government in the constitutional and political process now taking place in Haiti.

Mission members condemned all violence and called on the Haitian authorities to implement a comprehensive disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme to disarm all illegal armed groups, with the assistance of MINUSTAH. Reintegration is a crucial aspect of that problem. In that connection, it was deemed necessary to provide a concrete response to the social demands of members of the former military with a view to reintegrating them into the formal economy as an essential element in the promotion of peace and stability in the country.

Mission members are of the opinion that the nationwide dialogue has become an important tool for fostering a common understanding on critical themes relating to the future of the Haitian political and social processes. The Transitional Government, as well as representatives of civil society and political forces, have indicated their intention to participate in the comprehensive and inclusive dialogue and recognize that such a dialogue is an essential condition for long-term stability in the country.

The mission heard representatives of the main political parties, including Lavalas. Most of them pointed out that all actors who publicly renounce violence should be neither excluded from the national dialogue nor prevented from participating in the electoral processes. In turn, the Archbishop of Cap Haïtien delivered to mission members a letter from the Conférence Episcopale de Haïti that calls for a peaceful transition towards democracy, as well as for social and economic development.

On the coming elections, the main message from the members of the mission was that of encouraging the Transitional Government to persist in its firm commitment to holding free, honest and transparent elections in 2005, in accordance with the established timetable, and in its intention to hand over power to the new, democratically elected authorities on 7 February 2006. The mission also encouraged the Haitian people to mobilize and participate fully in the upcoming elections, and just started to consider the possibility of international observers being sent to follow the electoral process.

It was frequently mentioned throughout the conversations held by the mission that the holding of elections in accordance with the established calendar constitutes an essential step towards building democracy and political legitimacy in Haiti. Mission members and their interlocutors alike showed a clear awareness that many long-term structural problems will persist in Haiti even after the newly elected authorities take office, but they were confident that the new political climate would significantly facilitate the resolution of those problems.

Mission members conveyed to the Transitional Government the message that respect for human rights standards contributes to reinforcing stability and security. They expressed the opinion that all actors should abide by internationally accepted human rights standards and that HNP should be reformed. It was also pointed out that there is a need to ensure the end of impunity in Haiti while promoting due process and the rule of law, particularly through strengthening the judicial system. In turn, the Transitional Government called for increased international support with a view to implementing reforms conducive to a credible, accountable and respected police force in Haiti. The Interim President himself underlined the need to update Haitian codes and legislation, which date back to the nineteenth century. Finally, as Secretary-General Kofi Annan stated in his latest report on Haiti, it is necessary to encourage the efforts to expedite pending sensitive cases, such as that of former Prime Minister Ivon Neptune, and to ensure due process for all citizens.

Dramatic poverty conditions were recognized as the main root cause of conflict and political unrest in the country. The Haitian interlocutors and the members of the Council mission alike stressed the need for a long-term strategy to promote development and combat poverty. In that regard, mission members renewed the Security Council's appeal for the accelerated disbursement of the funds pledged by international financial institutions and donor countries since the holding of the International Donors Conference on Haiti in July of last year. The mission members also recalled that many of the projects identified at the conference held recently at Cayenne should now be implemented without delay.

The Interim Prime Minister pointed out the need to ensure that cooperation projects conform to the needs identified by Haitians themselves, and not only the priorities adopted by donors and international financial institutions. According to him, it is imperative to address the country's infrastructure — especially roads and the energy sector — as well as to combat deforestation and environmental degradation.

Mission members reiterated their intention to fully respect Haitian sovereignty, to contribute to the achievement of stabilization and development, and to ensure a long-term United Nations presence in Haiti. They believe that, as the United Nations assists Haiti, it should preserve the fundamental role played by Haiti's people and Government. Elections will usher in a new and more promising phase in the country's political history. Haitian representatives to be elected later this year should be prepared to seize this unique opportunity and to carry out all State responsibilities that naturally belong to the citizens of a nation such as Haiti, which is proud of its sovereignty, history and culture.

New ideas were presented by our interlocutors and by MINUSTAH leaders and personnel, to whom I would like to reiterate our appreciation for the quality of their work on the ground.

The draft mission report is now being finalized and will be discussed among Council members. It will contain a detailed description of the mission's activities and findings in the areas of security, political transition, elections, human rights, development, the humanitarian situation, institution-building, regional relations and the organization of MINUSTAH. It will not be a short report. It will also contain recommendations addressed to the Interim Government and to MINUSTAH. We are now considering the possibility of calling for a debate on the question of Haiti after the report is finalized and presented, with a view to collecting additional opinions from Member States concerning the renewal of MINUSTAH's mandate.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank Ambassador Sardenberg for his briefing.

On behalf of the Council, I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to all the members of the Security Council mission, which was very ably led by Ambassador Sardenberg, for the manner in which they carried out their important responsibility on behalf of the Council.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 10.40 a.m.

Security Council

Sixtieth year

Provisional

5165th meeting

Wednesday, 20 April 2005, 10.40 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Wang Guangya	(China)
Members:	Algeria	Mr. Baali
	Argentina	Mr. Mayoral
	Benin	Mr. Adechi
	Brazil	Mr. Sardenberg
	Denmark	Ms. Løj
	France	Mr. Poirier
	Greece	Mrs. Papadopoulou
	Japan	Mr. Kitaoka
	Philippines	Mr. Baja
	Romania	Mr. Dumitru
	Russian Federation	Mr. Denisov
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Thomson
	United Republic of Tanzania	Mr. Mahiga
	United States of America	Mrs. Patterson

Agenda

International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991

Letter dated 11 April 2005 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2005/236)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

05-31484 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.40 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991

Letter dated 11 April 2005 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2005/236)

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2005/236, which contains the text of a letter dated 11 April 2005 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council concerning the list of candidates for election as ad litem judges of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, containing in particular the suggestion to extend the deadline for nominations until 21 April 2005.

Members of the Council also have before them document S/2005/261, which contains the text of a draft resolution prepared in the course of the Council's prior consultations.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. Unless I hear any objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Algeria, Argentina, Benin, Brazil, China, Denmark, France, Greece, Japan, Philippines, Romania, Russian Federation, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1597 (2005).

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council will remain seized of the matter.

The meeting rose at 10.45 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.5166

Security Council

Sixtieth year

Provisional

5166th meeting

Thursday, 21 April 2005, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Wang Guangya	(China)
Members:	Algeria	Mr. Baali
	Argentina	Mr. Mayoral
	Benin	Mr. Adechi
	Brazil	Mr. Sardenberg
	Denmark	Ms. Løj
	France	Mr. De La Sablière
	Greece	Mrs. Papadopoulou
	Japan	Mr. Kitaoka
	Philippines	Mr. Baja
	Romania	Mr. Dumitru
	Russian Federation	Mr. Konuzin
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Thomson
	United Republic of Tanzania	Mr. Manongi
	United States of America	Mr. Vrooman

Agenda

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

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05-31655 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Mr. Kieran Prendergast, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs.

It is so decided.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

At this meeting, the Security Council will hear a briefing by Mr. Kieran Prendergast, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, to whom I give the floor.

Mr. Prendergast: Recent events in the Middle East continue to confirm the potential for peace, but warn us that this new process is still fragile. I think all of us are aware that it will take time, patience and courage to rebuild trust and confidence between Israelis and Palestinians. A degree of edginess and renewed suspicion has been evident in the past month about, on the one side, Israeli intentions and, on the other, Palestinian resolve and capabilities. If sustained progress is to be made, it is important that those doubts and suspicions be dispelled.

It is against that background that Israel is preparing to withdraw from settlements in the Gaza Strip and the northern West Bank sometime this summer. The act of disengagement, in and of itself, will be a landmark in Israeli-Palestinian relations. The pressing challenge for the parties and the international community is to take all possible actions to ensure that disengagement happens, that it happens in a coordinated way and that it does not become a dead end, but contributes to the momentum for peace. As the Quartet has stated and restated, a full and complete withdrawal, undertaken in a manner consistent with the road map, would be an important step towards realizing the vision of two States, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security.

As the Council knows, on 14 April the Quartet principals named Mr. James Wolfensohn as their Special Envoy to coordinate the international community's efforts in support of the disengagement initiative. His task is to promote coordination and cooperation between the two parties. The Secretary-General has commented that Mr. Wolfensohn's blend of vision and experience makes him uniquely qualified to support the post-withdrawal revival of the Palestinian economy. The Quartet envoys met yesterday in Jerusalem and discussed preparations for the disengagement initiative and how best to support Mr. Wolfensohn.

Within the Israeli polity, Prime Minister Sharon has overcome the remaining official challenges to his withdrawal initiative. On 28 March, the Knesset rejected draft legislation to introduce a national referendum on disengagement. The next day, 29 March, the 2005 State budget was passed by a Knesset plenum, averting the need for new elections. However, despite support from the Knesset and from a majority of Israelis, some elements of Israeli society have increased their protests and incitement against the Government and the Prime Minister, and have vowed to resist actively the disengagement process. Israeli preparations for the evacuation and for the related process of relocating Israeli settlers are ongoing, notwithstanding continued opposition from the militant minority.

On the Palestinian side, both President Abbas and Prime Minister Qurei announced that the Palestinian Authority was prepared to coordinate the withdrawal with Israel, despite the Palestinian Authority's political concerns regarding the plan, which had initially been a unilateral initiative. President Abbas has established a ministerial committee for coordination, headed by the Prime Minister, with technocratic ministers assigned sectoral subcommittees — including in the areas of housing and planning — tasked with preparations for the pullout and longer-term strategies for the period after disengagement.

It is welcome that each of the two parties has publicly reiterated its willingness to coordinate with the other. However, we are concerned at reports that that announced readiness to coordinate has not yet been sufficiently translated into practice. Direct

dialogue and communication are essential first steps towards ensuring that the disengagement is as smooth and non-violent as possible. I was pleased to learn that high-level meetings between Deputy Prime Minister Peres and Prime Minister Qurei and between Israeli Defence Minister Mofaz and Minister Dahlan took place today to discuss the economic and military aspects of the disengagement.

Coordination and cooperation will be needed even more in the challenging transition period once disengagement is complete. The Palestinian Authority and the newly elected municipalities in Gaza face a deeply impoverished population in which tribal and family ties have strongly re-emerged. Immediate challenges for the Authority and for civil society include rebuilding the rule of law and a respected security sector that can reassert the monopoly over the use of force that is a characteristic of any functioning State.

Despite the doubts and the difficult challenges ahead, the hope and optimism of the past months remain. That is confirmed by the continued overall decline in casualties, violence and military operations. However, we are seeing on the ground indicators of the fragility of the current situation. Particularly disturbing is the apparent failure to break the tendency towards retributive violence, so that even one incident carries with it the risk of escalation.

On 9 April, Israeli soldiers deployed in Rafah on the "Philadelphi route" opened fire on a group of Palestinian youths, killing 14-year-old Ahmad al-Jazar as well as Ashraf Musa and Khaled A'anam, both 15 years old. All three were found to be unarmed. The Israel Defence Forces (IDF) reported that its soldiers had believed the youths were armed and were engaged in weapon smuggling. When news of the deaths spread, Palestinian militants fired nearly 80 mortars and Qassem rockets at the Gush Katif settlement over a three-day period, causing material damage but, fortunately, no casualties.

On 11 April, the Israeli army launched an arrest campaign in Nablus, searching for a suspect with alleged links to Hizbullah; however, 22 Palestinians were injured during the operation. On 14 April, also in Nablus, an Israeli undercover unit killed a wanted Al-Aqsa Brigades militant in a shoot-out during an arrest operation; the IDF charged that the militant had been planning a suicide bombing attack. President Abbas condemned the killings and accused Israel of undermining the Sharm el-Sheikh understandings.

The month also witnessed a number of actual or attempted Palestinian military operations against Israeli targets, resulting in injuries in some cases. There were also numerous Israeli arrest campaigns and worrying reports of increased settler vigilante attacks against Palestinian civilians in West Bank villages. Those incidents underscore that — as I said at the beginning — the state of affairs remains fragile and that, unless there is positive movement, the situation could easily deteriorate again.

There is no quick fix to this conflict. We can and should, however, reiterate the need for the parties to implement their commitments under the road map and the more recent Sharm el-Sheikh understandings.

Israel justifies its continuation of military incursions, arrest campaigns, curfews and movement restrictions as necessary to confront and pre-empt security threats. It charges the Palestinian Authority with not taking serious action against violence and militants. Palestinian leaders, for their part, claim that they are taking action but acknowledge that the process is slow and difficult. They believe that the ongoing Israeli military operations are counterproductive, in that they make it more difficult for the Palestinian Authority to disarm or arrest militants and in that they threaten the viability of the ceasefire.

Internally, Al-Aqsa militants have become the main disrupters of law and order, threatening Palestinian Authority officials and ordinary citizens alike. In response to those violent incidents, President Abbas declared a state of alert and began reshuffling the security forces in the West Bank. He subsequently announced his intention to disarm those Fatah militants who are on Israel's wanted list and proposed that the wanted persons be integrated into the Palestinian Authority's security agencies. President Abbas also appointed an interim chief of the Palestinian National Forces to replace Haj Ismail Jaber, who had been forced to resign.

In addition, President Abbas issued a presidential decree enforcing the security forces pension bill, which will lead to the retirement of some 2,000 security staff. Moreover, he announced that the Palestinian Authority will shortly reorganize and unify its security forces into three agencies operating under the direct command of the Minister of the Interior, a step that is required in

the road map. We expect those new appointments to be made shortly.

Those actions and announcements are positive and welcome, but they are clearly not enough. Security reform and a visible and sustained effort to stop all violent activity are basic requirements of the road map. As such, they cannot be a matter for compromise. The will to act must come from the Palestinian Authority.

However, there is also much that Israel could do to support, rather than hinder, President Abbas's ability to take difficult steps. The relevant confidence-building measures are clearly laid out in the Sharm el-Sheikh understandings and in phase one of the road map. Against the background of unmet obligations under the road map and insufficient progress on the Sharm el-Sheikh understandings, the joint Israeli-Palestinian committees dealing with fugitives, prisoners and the transfer of major urban centres in the West Bank did not meet in the past month. Security control was not transferred in any of the Palestinian cities during that period; nor were any prisoners released. Such steps are part and parcel of the wider process to coordinate and move forward together. We welcome General Ward's continued efforts to help reform the Palestinian security services and to assist in resolving outstanding issues between the parties related to security.

One of Israel's primary obligations under the road map, and an important confidence-building measure, is the requirement to halt all settlement activity, including natural growth, and to dismantle settlement outposts erected since March 2001. We have repeatedly expressed our concern over the fact that Israel has not yet lived up to its obligations in that respect.

We have therefore noted with great concern that, despite strong international objections, Prime Minister Sharon has publicly reiterated his commitment to the eventual implementation of the E1 plan aimed at connecting Jerusalem with the largest West Bank settlement, Maale Adumim. In addition, the Israeli Lands Authority announced on 18 April that it was inviting bids for the construction of 50 housing units in the West Bank settlement of Elkana.

In that connection, the Council will recall that President George W. Bush, after his recent meeting with Prime Minister Sharon, said that Israel should "not undertake any activity that contravenes road map obligations or prejudice final status negotiations".

President Bush added that "Israel should meet its road map obligations regarding settlements in the West Bank and remove unauthorized outposts". I believe, if I may say so, that this very much represents the position of all four members of the Quartet.

The fragile nature of the current situation is reflected in the Palestinian economy, which, despite modest improvements, is still in a state of crisis. Unemployment remains high, at a rate between 36 and 41 per cent in the Gaza Strip. Israeli measures to ease closure have not yet had positive effects on those rates. During the calendar month of March, as recent data show, 1,550 Palestinian workers entered Israel from the Gaza Strip, and an additional 540 worked in the Erez Industrial Zone. This amounted to a threefold increase in the total number of Gazans actively employed in Israel and the Industrial Zone, though this level remains much below the pre-intifada daily average of 30,000 workers.

I can report that the month of March did bring an improvement in trade flows between Israel and Gaza. Karni, Rafah and Sofa commercial crossings saw a significant easing of restrictions on the movement of goods. As a result, the value of goods passing through Karni more than doubled, from $26 million to $55 million.

On the fiscal front, the Palestinian Legislative Council on 30 March approved the delayed budget plan for 2005. The budget aims for fiscal revenues to the extent of $1 billion, though donor support will have to cover a deficit of more than $1.17 billion. Sixty percent of the budget will be allocated for Palestinian Authority (PA) wages and salaries.

In the context of the Palestinian budget vote, discussions continued to follow up on the London Conference of 1 March this year. These primarily involved the European Commission, the World Bank, Norway and the United Nations, and focused on reform of the existing donor coordination structure. The review has three main goals: first, to mainstream the reform agenda into the core of the aid coordination process; secondly, to ensure a more central role for the PA in aid management and coordination; and, thirdly, to make the aid coordination structures more effective in responding to needs.

If I may turn our attention to Lebanon, there have been a number of important developments.

Particularly worrying were a number of bombings that have caused great anxiety among the population. Since my last briefing of the Council, there have been a further two explosions. One occurred on 26 March in an industrial suburb north-east of Beirut. Another took place on 1 April underneath a shopping centre in the mountain town of Broumana, also north-east of Beirut. Fortunately, there were no fatalities as a result of either bombing. The Secretary-General has spoken out strongly against such acts of violence, reiterating his belief that the Lebanese people must be able to decide their future in a democratic and peaceful manner.

Following the resignation of Omar Karami on 13 April, Najib Mikati was appointed as Prime Minister-designate on 15 April, and on 19 April announced a new cabinet of 14 ministers. That important breakthrough comes after a period of political stalemate in the country. It is expected that the new cabinet will be put to a vote of confidence in Parliament shortly. Its main tasks will be to draft an electoral law that is acceptable to all and to oversee the conduct of Lebanon's parliamentary elections. We take this opportunity to emphasize again the importance of holding these elections within Lebanon's constitutional deadline, and we take positive note of Prime Minister-designate Mikati's undertaking to work towards that end.

On 7 April, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1595 (2005), establishing the International Independent Investigation Commission into the assassination of the late Prime Minister Rafik Hariri. The Government of Lebanon has undertaken to extend its full cooperation and support to the work of the Commission, whose work in Lebanon is expected to begin very shortly.

Many Lebanese came together on 13 April, the thirtieth anniversary of the beginning of the civil war, to celebrate a day of national unity and to reject a return to the violence of the past. A few days beforehand, there was a public call by Bahia Hariri, a Member of Parliament and sister of the former Prime Minister, urging people back to the central district of Beirut so as to re-stimulate economic activity in the commercial hub of the city and to overcome the atmosphere of anxiety that prevailed after the spate of bombings. That resulted in large numbers returning to the central district.

If I may turn to south Lebanon, we are pleased to note the overall calm that seems to have prevailed along the Blue Line for some time now. Violations of the Line, however, have continued to take place, mostly in the form of recurring air violations by Israel and also by Hizbullah, which, on 11 April, launched an unmanned aerial vehicle into Israeli airspace. Hizbullah announced that its drone had flown over Israeli territory for 18 minutes before returning to Lebanon. A number of Israeli air violations were recorded shortly afterwards and have continued over the past week. On the same day, Geir Pedersen, the Secretary-General's newly appointed Personal Representative for Southern Lebanon, arrived in Beirut to take up his duties. He called on all parties to cease such violations and ensure total calm along the Blue Line. I would add that the increased air activity from both sides creates an additional concern in the risks posed to United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) helicopter patrols along the Blue Line.

Let me end by saying that the international community is coming together to assure the parties that they are not alone and that we will accompany them along the road to a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

The end goal remains clear — ending the occupation that began in 1967 and establishing a sovereign, democratic, viable and contiguous Palestinian State living side by side with a secure Israel.

The Israeli disengagement plan offers a real opportunity to revitalize the peace process. For that to happen, it is urgent that we encourage both parties to resume contacts and to work together to prepare for Israel's withdrawal. Coordination, cooperation and agreement between the two parties, and active support from the international community, are needed to achieve a successful disengagement that will lead to further steps towards the implementation of the road map and towards realizing our end goal.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I should now like to invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 10.40 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.5167

Security Council

Distr.: General
22 April 2005

Original: English

Official communiqué of the 5167th (closed) meeting of the Security Council

Held in private at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 22 April 2005, at 10 a.m.

In accordance with rule 55 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the following communiqué was issued through the Secretary-General in place of a verbatim record:

"On 22 April 2005, the Security Council, pursuant to annex II, sections A and B of resolution 1353 (2001), held its 5167th meeting in private with the troop-contributing countries to the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO).

"The Security Council and the troop-contributing countries heard a briefing under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure by Mr. Alvaro de Soto, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara and Chief of Mission.

"Members of the Council, Mr. de Soto and representatives of participating troop-contributing countries had a constructive exchange of views."

05-31813 (E) 220405

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Expression of sympathy in connection with the railway accident in Japan

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): At the outset, I should like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the members of the Security Council, to express our profound condolences in connection with the tragic train accident in Amagasaki, Japan, which has taken the lives of at least 50 people and has injured over 400. The Security Council expresses its sympathy and condolences to the victims and their families and to the Government of Japan. On behalf of the Council, I should like to request the representative of Japan to convey those sentiments to his Government and his people.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Briefings by Chairmen of subsidiary bodies of the Security Council

Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities

Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism

Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I should like to inform the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of Australia, Chile, Cuba, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Morocco, Spain, Venezuela and Viet Nam, in which they request to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the discussion, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, the aforementioned representatives took the seats reserved for them at the side of the Council Chamber.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend invitations under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Ambassador César Mayoral, Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities; Ambassador Ellen Margrethe Løj, Chairperson of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism; and Ambassador Mihnea Ioan Motoc, Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004).

There being no objection, it is so decided.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

I wish to draw the attention of members to document S/2005/266, containing the text of a letter dated 21 April 2005 from the Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee transmitting the Committee's fifteenth 90-day work programme.

At this meeting, we will hear briefings by the Chairpersons of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999), the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) and the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004).

I now give the floor to Ambassador César Mayoral, Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities.

Mr. Mayoral (*spoke in Spanish*): It is an honour for me to brief the Security Council on the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban at a meeting in which I shall share the floor with the Chairpersons of the Council Committees established pursuant to

resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004), Ambassadors Løj and Motoc, respectively.

I am delivering my 120-day briefing pursuant to paragraph 12 of resolution 1526 (2004). As this is my first briefing in my function as Chairman of the Committee, I should like to thank the members of the Council for the trust they have shown me in selecting me to chair that important Committee.

I should also like to thank my predecessor, Ambassador Heraldo Muñoz of Chile, who is with us here today. Thanks to his diligent leadership, the Committee has solidified its role as one of the most active sanctions committees. The past three months have been a real learning experience for my delegation, and I would like to express my gratitude to Ambassador Muñoz and the Chilean mission, who have generously shared their accumulated experiences with my delegation. I have been encouraged in my work by the proactive approach of all members of the Committee and, in particular, those who are new to it.

I wish first to refer to the Committee's activities. Let me note that the Al-Qaida and Taliban Committee was the first of the counter-terrorism committees to be created by the Security Council. It has, since 1999, accumulated a broad and fruitful experience in dealing with its specific mandate: making the operations of Al-Qaida and the Taliban more difficult worldwide. Today, its sanctions regime is being implemented throughout the world and, in particular, thanks to submissions of Member States, its consolidated list of individuals and entities associated with Al-Qaida and the Taliban is updated periodically. During the reporting period, the Committee delisted one individual at the request of a Member State and accepted exemptions pursuant to resolution 1452 (2002).

On the last day of 2004, Ambassador Muñoz submitted to the President of the Council the Committee's written assessment of reports submitted by Member States pursuant to resolution 1455 (2003). That important assessment, contained in document S/2004/1037 and available on the Committee's website, details the Committee's substantive evaluation of reports submitted by Member States and contains the more specific analysis of Member State reports provided by the Monitoring Team to the Committee. I strongly encourage Member States that have not already done so to read it. I also take this opportunity to stress the obligation of non-reporting States to submit their reports as a matter of urgency. As the written assessment clearly demonstrates, the reports from Member States provide the Committee with an important tool in assessing the strengths and weaknesses of the implementation of sanctions measures.

During the reporting period, the Committee met 15 times, mostly in informal meetings, which has been the practice for the work of the Committee for many years.

On 11 January, the Committee met a senior delegation from the United States and was briefed by Mr. Juan Zarate, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Terrorist Financing and Financial Crime, and Mr. E. Anthony Wayne, Assistant Secretary of State for Economic and Business Affairs. The Committee was informed in detail of current United States efforts to implement the sanctions against Al-Qaida and the Taliban imposed by the Security Council. I consider it important to note that the Committee was honoured by the presence of the three Chairmen of the other counter-terrorism committees and working groups.

I encourage Member States to follow the example of the United States by making use of the opportunity to meet with the Committee, since that is a very useful way for the Committee to evaluate the state of implementation of the Al-Qaida and Taliban sanctions regime, its strongest areas and its shortcomings.

During the first months of this year, the Committee has been considering in great detail the second report of the Monitoring Team submitted last December pursuant to resolution 1526 (2004). I thank the Monitoring Team for the recommendations contained therein, which proved a useful basis for discussion in the Committee. The report is, of course, the work of independent experts and does not necessarily reflect the views of the Committee. The Committee has also been analysing the recommendations contained in the report, mainly with a view to further improving the Al-Qaida and Taliban sanctions regime.

I expect that several of those recommendations will have a great influence on the Council's upcoming consideration of a draft resolution to be adopted pursuant to paragraph 3 of resolution 1526 (2004). The Committee supports increased cooperation with Interpol, which is among the most important of those recommendations. I should note that, in the fight

against Al-Qaida and the Taliban, it would be beneficial for all Member States to become members of Interpol. The Committee also supported the Team's recommendation that Interpol members make use of the Interpol database on stolen travel documents. The Committee recently held an informal meeting with the Interpol representative in New York, Mr. Ulrich Kersten, to discuss potential specific areas of cooperation between the Committee and Interpol.

With respect to the activities of the Monitoring Team, I have dealt in some detail with the contribution made by the Team through its December report (S/2005/83, annex). The Monitoring Team has continued to strive to improve the quality of the consolidated list. By contacting a number of Member States, in accordance with the Committee's guidelines, the Monitoring Team has been able to propose more than 500 additional pieces of identifying information concerning individuals and entities already on the list and has actively encouraged Member States to submit new names for inclusion on the consolidated list.

The Monitoring Team has undertaken 11 trips, including to Africa, the Middle East and Europe, to discuss sanctions implementation and how to make the sanctions regime more effective. Those trips raised the Committee's profile and have promoted a proper understanding of the purpose and the importance of the sanctions regime. Following each trip, the Team has submitted written reports to the Committee. As well, a member of the Team will accompany me on my upcoming visits to the States selected. The Monitoring Team has established contacts with regional and other international bodies, including the European Union, Interpol, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. The Team has also participated in several important conferences, helping to increase international awareness of the Committee's work.

The Monitoring Team continues to hold regular meetings with the experts supporting the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) and has formed a close link with the new Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, sharing the information it has collected and ensuring that, before visiting States and attending conferences, the Team is aware of the interests and the concerns of the CTC experts. It has also held informal discussions with the experts of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), and the Coordinator has briefed the working group established pursuant to resolution 1566 (2004). The Committee expresses its appreciation for the outstanding contribution made by the Team in that regard and encourages the Team to maintain its leading role.

With respect to the future activities of the Committee, I firmly believe that we can achieve further progress in the coming months: by introducing further quantitative and qualitative improvements to the lists; by involving Member States in a fruitful dialogue with the Committee, encouraging them to meet with the Committee and share their successes, challenges, problems and frustrations; by increasing the level of cooperation with other United Nations bodies involved in the fight against terrorism, such as the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), as well as with specialized bodies such as Interpol, in order to enhance the United Nations capacity for coordination in the fight against terrorism; and by reviewing the Committee's guidelines for the conduct of its work.

I intend also to travel soon to a number of countries, including in Europe and in the Middle East, to continue to promote the Committee's activities, gather first-hand impressions in those countries' capitals of the status of the implementation of the sanctions regime and receive suggestions on how we can work to improve it.

Finally, as mandated in paragraph 3 of resolution 1526 (2004), by July this year the Security Council must adopt a new resolution to assess the implementation of the sanctions regime against Al-Qaida and the Taliban and improve it. With that in mind, the Committee will shortly begin actively to work on a new draft resolution to be submitted to the Council.

To conclude, last year in this Chamber, my predecessor aptly noted that there were no quick or easy solutions in the fight against terrorism. Rather, the fight requires systematic and results-oriented work, persistence and patience and an unyielding commitment to our mission.

In the coming months, the Committee will examine how States are implementing sanctions with a view to identifying those areas that require additional effort so that current measures can be improved.

Moreover, I am confident that members of the Committee will genuinely welcome suggestions from Member States about how the Security Council can improve the current sanctions regime. After all, who better than States can tell the Committee whether established sanctions measures are indeed effective? The counter-terrorism sanctions regime, first of all, involves accurately targeting the right individuals and entities and requires the political will of States to make that regime effective through the strict implementation of sanctions.

At the moment, it is difficult to envision a world completely free from terrorist threats. Nevertheless, we all share the common mission of effectively preventing such threats from materializing. Today, all three Committees have distinct and crucial roles in that mission. I therefore wish to state that I shall continue to work closely with Ambassador Løj, Ambassador Motoc and, of course, Ambassador Baja, Chairman of the working group established pursuant to resolution 1566 (2004), in order to further enhance the efforts of the Security Council and the entire United Nations in this mission.

The President (*Spoke in Chinese*): I thank Ambassador Mayoral for his briefing.

I now give the floor to Ms. Ellen Margrethe Løj, Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism.

Ms. Løj: In my capacity as Chair of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), I would like to brief the Security Council on the activities carried out by the Committee during the past three months and submit the Committee's fifteenth work programme covering the period 1 April to 30 June 2005 (S/2005/266).

I had the honour to assume the chairmanship of the CTC on 1 April 2005. I would like to express my gratitude to the previous Chairman of the Committee, Ambassador Andrey Denisov, for his excellent work and leadership. Much of what I will be reporting today took place under his chairmanship, and, together with his colleagues at the Russian Mission, he deserves much credit for the many new initiatives taken during that period. Let me also take this opportunity to thank the Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), Mr. Javier Rupérez, and his team, as well as the CTC secretariat staff, for the valuable support they have provided the Committee over the past three months.

Security Council resolution 1535 (2004) set the stage for revitalizing the CTC and improving the dialogue with Member States. Based on that and other resolutions with relevance to the work of the Committee, the CTC has more effectively discharged its mandate to monitor the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001). The following key activities took place.

The dialogue with Member States was strengthened, including through a first visit to a Member State. New methods were introduced for determining technical assistance needs. The dialogue with international, regional and subregional organizations was strengthened, for the purpose of encouraging them to help their members implement resolution 1373 (2001). Work continued to strengthen the CTED's practical capabilities. Work on a set of best practices related to work against the financing of terrorism was initiated.

As part of its dialogue with Member States, the Committee continued to respond to incoming national reports. More than 580 reports have so far been received, and many States will soon be submitting their fifth reports to the Committee. However, not all reports are equally comprehensive, and 75 States are currently late in submitting their reports. This delay appears to be due to a lack of available technical capacity in the States concerned but reportedly also to "reporting fatigue". Responsibility for the preparation of reports as well as for implementation of the other provisions of resolution 1373 (2001), rests with Member States. However, the CTC has offered to facilitate the provision of technical assistance to help States in writing their reports. The CTC has reminded late submitters to send in their reports. Another part of the CTC's dialogue with Member States has been to initiate country visits, which help bring the CTC and the CTED closer to States and allow for in-depth dialogue on specific challenges facing a State.

The first such visit, to Morocco, took place from 14 to 18 March. The World Customs Organization, the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering, Interpol and the European Union took part in the visit. A fruitful dialogue took place with the Government of Morocco and its various entities during the visit. The visit permitted joint problem identification and a

discussion of how best to overcome the problems that were observed. The key to the success of this visit, as will be true for all visits, is follow-up. The CTC plans similar visits to Albania, Kenya and Thailand in the near future. The Committee encourages Member States to welcome country visits by the CTC, including the CTED, with a view to enhancing their efforts in the fight against terrorism.

With regard to technical needs assessments, a methodology has been developed and agreed upon for how they should be prepared and reviewed by the Committee. So far 51 such assessments have been prepared and 11 have been endorsed by the Committee and have been forwarded to Member States for their review. Unless a Member State objects, the results of such assessments will be shared with potential assistance providers. The Committee has further engaged with international, regional and subregional organizations so as to encourage them to help their members implement resolution 1373 (2001).

From 26 to 28 January 2005, the fourth special meeting with those organizations was organized by the CTC and the Commonwealth of Independent States in Almaty, Kazakhstan. It was attended by 40 international organizations, as well as by 36 Member States.

Over the past three months the CTC has also received briefings from the Council of Europe, the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime and the Collective Security Treaty Organization. In addition, the Committee has cooperated closely with the Counterterrorism Action Group created by the Group of Eight, as well as with Interpol, the European Union, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and NATO. Cooperation has also been close with the other terrorism-related subsidiary bodies of the Security Council, namely the 1267 Committee, the 1540 Committee and the 1566 working group. A joint briefing of the CTC and the 1267 and 1540 Committees for Member States took place on 24 February.

In his speech in Madrid on 10 March 2005, the Secretary-General referred directly to the central role of the CTC and its CTED in the fight against terrorism. Unfortunately, for technical reasons, the CTED has not yet become fully operational. This seriously limits the CTC's ability to sustain the various types of dialogue with Member States on which it has embarked. Many reports from Member States, for instance, still require response from the Committee. A lack of experts has prevented such responses from being drafted.

Further, the CTC, in accordance with the request contained in resolution 1566 (2004), has initiated development of a set of best practices to assist States in implementing the provisions of resolution 1373 (2001) relating to the financing of terrorism.

Finally, the CTC has taken major steps towards its revitalization, as set out in Security Council resolution 1535 (2004). The Committee has been equipped with valuable instruments needed to reinforce its practical work.

I would now like to briefly present the Committee's work programme for the next three months. The work programme has been distributed to members of the Council in document S/2005/266. During the next three months the Committee will continue its efforts to complete the revitalization process. In particular, it looks forward to having a fully functional CTED in the shortest possible time. Let me also add that this, to a large degree, will depend on the timely finalization of recruitments for the CTED. The dialogue with Member States on the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) will continue, guided by the principles of cooperation, transparency and equal treatment. That dialogue, based on Member State reporting and CTC replies, will be underpinned by CTC technical needs assessments and visits to Member States in order to monitor the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001).

In addition, the Committee will continue to improve cooperation with international, regional and subregional organizations, and will encourage them to seek to develop further ways to help States implement resolution 1373 (2001). Finally, the CTC will begin to consider, where appropriate, the development of best practices in other areas with relevance to resolution 1373 (2001).

The CTC remains a crucial instrument of the international community in its fight against terrorism, based on dialogue and assistance to States. Its task remains vital and urgent. The support of Member States remains crucially important, and the Committee is grateful for the support it has received and will continue to count on it in the future.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*) I thank Ambassador Løj. For her briefing.

I now give the floor to Ambassador Mihnea Motok, Chairman of the Security Council Committee established to pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004).

Mr. Motok: Allow me, Mr. President, to start by expressing gratitude to you for arranging for this special joint briefing by the Chairs of the three Committees called upon to report to the Council.

I would like to salute the activities and achievements of my colleagues the Permanent Representatives of Argentina, Mr. César Mayoral, and of Denmark, Ms. Ellen Løj, Chairpersons, respectively, of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) and of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC). Having been a member of the Council last year too, I would also like to take this opportunity to commend the dedicated work and leadership of Ambassador Muñoz of Chile and Ambassador Denisov of the Russian Federation, their predecessors at the helm of those two landmark subsidiary bodies of the Security Council.

Ambassador Lauro Baja of the Philippines does a wonderful job in steering the working group established pursuant to resolution 1566 (2004) towards its expected goals. A special word of appreciation also goes to the Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, Ambassador Javier Rupérez.

I have the honour to brief the Security Council on the progress achieved by the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) in its work over the past four months and to submit the Committee's first programme of work covering the period 1 April to 30 June 2005. I would also like to introduce briefly the elements of the first programme of work of the Committee.

With regard to the examination of national reports, since my previous report to the Council in December last year, the Committee has concentrated its work mainly on fine-tuning its methodology and tool kit for considering national reports submitted by States pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004). Committee experts have developed a matrix to be used as an internal tool in the process of examining national reports. It is a living document built upon the provisions of resolution 1540 (2004).

I am very pleased to report to the Council today that the 1540 Committee has already entered the substantive stage of its work and has begun examining national reports, with a view to monitoring States' efforts to implement resolution 1540 (2004). The Committee believes that it needs additional information from States in order to better determine implementation efforts, and it will reach out to them, with the support of its experts, both in New York and in capitals.

We must pursue this process with the same sense of urgency that contributed to the adoption of resolution 1540 (2004). The Committee has been given a two-year mandate by the Security Council. The Committee should consider at least 40 national reports within each remaining trimestrial programme of work, thus completing the processing of first national reports by the end of 2005.

In one year's time, the Committee will need to provide the Security Council with sufficient information about States' implementation efforts to enable the Council to assess the progress that States have made in implementing the resolution. In considering national reports, the Committee will start examining possible sources of technical assistance for States that have requested such assistance in order to implement resolution 1540 (2004). Discussions on where assistance is already being provided and on facilitating necessary technical assistance will form part of the examination process.

With respect to reporting, Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) calls upon all States to present to the Committee a first report, not later than 28 October 2004, on steps that they have taken or intend to take to implement the resolution. The status of reporting is presented on the web site of the Committee, and is kept up to date.

As of today, 115 States and one organization have submitted reports to the 1540 Committee. I would like to use this opportunity to renew my call to States that have yet to submit their first report as called for by the Council in resolution 1540 (2004). Their reports will enable the Committee to present to the Council, by the end of its mandate, an objective picture of what has been achieved in terms of implementation and of what should be done going forward.

I assume that some countries may encounter difficulties in drafting their national reports or in

enacting appropriate legislation to fulfil the requirements of resolution 1540 (2004). Informing the Committee of such difficulties will help it to identify and respond to requests for assistance from those States lacking the legal and regulatory infrastructure, implementation experience or necessary resources.

In my capacity as Chairman of the 1540 Committee, I have continued to raise the issue of further reporting through briefings with Member States, informal contact at the United Nations with the coordinators of regional groups and sending reminders to those that have yet to report. I remain committed to pursuing such endeavours in the future work of the Committee, on its behalf. I am also very encouraged that the issues of improving further reporting and late submissions will be considered in a coordinated manner by the various Committees.

On the interaction with international organizations, I am pleased to report that, on 13 April 2005, the Committee was briefed in a formal meeting by Mr. Rogelio Pfirter, Director General of the Technical Secretariat of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, and by Mr. Gustavo Zlauvinen, Director of the International Atomic Energy Agency Office at the United Nations, on ways in which those organizations can support the work of the Committee and contribute to the process of implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). The Committee has also received letters from other organizations, such as the Nuclear Suppliers Group and the Zangger Committee, expressing willingness to assist in the work of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

As the process of examining national reports evolves, the Committee will interact and cooperate, as appropriate, with relevant international, regional and subregional organizations in order to facilitate the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). Working relationships with such organizations will be developed, as appropriate.

In the same vein, the Committee will maintain close relations and cooperation with the CTC and the Al-Qaida/Taliban sanctions Committee, as provided for in resolution 1566 (2004).

Transparency has been, and continues to be, an important objective of the work of the 1540 Committee. The Chairman and the Vice-Chairmen will reach out on a regular basis to Member States, including through common briefings with the Chairmen of the CTC and of the Committee dealing with Al-Qaida and Taliban sanctions. The 1540 Committee will keep its dedicated web site updated as an additional source of information on issues related to resolution 1540 (2004).

The Committee will also continue to inform organizations outside the United Nations about our work, through attendance at international, regional and subregional meetings and conferences. I will also make full use of such opportunities to continue to address the issue of further reporting.

As a final point on transparency, I encourage Member States to designate points of contact for resolution 1540 (2004) and to make direct contact with the Committee's members and its experts to seek any necessary clarification on the issues covered in their correspondence with the Committee or on matters related to resolution 1540 (2004) in general. In addition, the Committee, with the support of its experts, may, when it is deemed appropriate, contact States to seek further clarification from them on issues arising from their reports.

In conclusion, on behalf of the Committee, I look forward to the cooperation of all States as the Committee goes forward with its work in the months ahead. I also look forward to comments and queries that colleagues in the Security Council and representatives of other States Members of the United Nations might have with regard to the briefing that I have just given.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank Ambassador Motoc for his briefing.

In accordance with the understanding reached among Council members, I wish to remind all speakers to limit their statements to no more than five minutes in order to enable the Council to carry out its work expeditiously. Delegations with lengthy statements are kindly requested to circulate the texts in writing and to deliver a condensed version when speaking in the Chamber.

Mr. Sardenberg (Brazil) (*spoke in Spanish*): I wish to congratulate Ambassador Ellen Løj, Chairperson of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism, Ambassador César Mayoral, Chairman of the Security Council Committee

established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities, and Ambassador Mihnea Motoc, Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), on their briefings today. We also thank them for their tireless efforts to conduct the work of their respective Committees in a dynamic and effective manner.

Cooperation among the three Committees — whose mandates share many complementary aspects — is essential for proper coordination of the international community's efforts in this area. We support the initiatives already carried out, and we urge even closer cooperation. In that connection, Brazil agrees with the text of the presidential statement to be read out at the conclusion of this meeting.

Brazil has reaffirmed its commitment to the fight against terrorism and its repudiation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations as an extremely grave threat to international peace and security. We are prepared to continue to work to find increasingly effective ways in which to combat that threat.

The debates on United Nations reform promoted by the Secretary-General once again offer us an opportunity to establish a definition of terrorism and to identify coordinated, expanded and integrated actions to be taken by the international community to confront this problem. We welcome the suggestions made by the Secretary-General in his report "In larger freedom" (A/59/2005), and we consider them to be a good basis for broader discussion of the subject in the General Assembly.

Brazil welcomes with satisfaction the General Assembly's adoption of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (General Assembly resolution 59/290), and we are now considering the possibility of ratifying it as soon as possible. Brazil believes that the threat of catastrophic terrorism, although undoubtedly very important, should not be our sole concern in confronting threats to peace and security that are caused by terrorist acts.

With regard to the Security Council, we support the current process of reforming the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED). We hope that that body can soon become completely operational. We wish to help make the transition period as brief as possible. In our opinion, the CTED is intended, above all, to protect those States that wish to cooperate but, for various reasons, are unable to do so. The Counter-Terrorism Committee and, by extension, the CTED do not have the role of a sanctions committee, as members are well aware.

The activities of the working group established pursuant to resolution 1566 (2004) should be developed in the framework of the structure established in resolution 1373 (2001), resolution 1535 (2004) and resolution 1566 (2004) itself. Given the sensitivity of the issue of international terrorism, working with the participation of Member States is more important than trying to force decisions that might not necessarily reflect the various legitimate concerns that may arise.

Many countries have doubts about the appropriateness of resorting to lists to confront the problem of international terrorism. In the end, such an approach could put unnecessary limitations on our consideration of the ultimate causes of violence. Many problems could be created. For example, contacts with certain armed groups might become more difficult, which would make negotiated solutions to conflicts less likely.

Questions related to the inclusion or deletion of names on sanctions committee lists have not yet been adequately resolved. On various occasions, we have recalled the need to develop precise and uniform procedures to update, correct and improve the lists of individuals subject to sanctions. With regard to the 1267 Committee, we reaffirm that it must develop such procedures and methods, in addition to continuing its practice of conducting periodic reviews of the lists of individuals and entities associated with Al-Qaida and the Taliban, with a view to the possible delisting of names. As we have previously stated, adopting measures to refine the consolidated list and clarifying list management procedures are the main ways in which the 1267 Committee can provide an incentive for contributions by Member States to the List.

Without a consensus definition of terrorism, it is not appropriate to consider — as envisaged in resolution 1566 (2004) — possible practical measures regarding individuals, groups or entities involved in terrorist activities not covered by resolution 1267 (1999). Resolution 1566 (2004) reflects negotiated language that contains a clear and important political message, but it does not constitute a conceptual definition of terrorism and cannot be interpreted as such.

Furthermore, under the Charter of the United Nations, the General Assembly has the functions and powers enabling it to define subjects such as terrorism. In the absence of a common definition, the compilation of a consolidated list of individuals and organizations classified as terrorist could lead to the undue politicization of a committee. Hence the importance of the appeal made by the Secretary-General in his report.

The work of the 1540 Committee is now entering an important phase. More than 110 Member States have submitted their reports, in accordance with paragraph 4 of resolution 1540 (2004) and with the specific guidelines drawn up by the Committee. We urge those Members that have not yet submitted their national reports — including requests for technical assistance when necessary — to do so as soon as possible.

The Committee recently began to consider the reports with the support of a group of experts. Our intention is that that work be carried out in a manner commensurate with the urgency required by the threat of non-State actors gaining access to weapons of mass destruction.

In our opinion, the final outcome of the work of the 1540 Committee should be a framework for national and international efforts to confront the threat posed by non-State actors, particularly terrorists. The Committee could also facilitate the provision of technical assistance to States that request it, in order to help them build their capacities in the relevant areas. Such efforts must always be developed in cooperation with Member States, with full respect for the integrity of multilaterally negotiated instruments and international law, particularly the rights and obligations of Member States.

Brazil continues to believe that a world free of weapons of mass destruction would be a safer world and that the very existence of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, in the possession of either non-State actors or States themselves, is a threat to international peace and security. Effective, irreversible and verifiable disarmament by States possessing such weapons would be a clear sign of their commitment to that cause.

While terrorism is completely unacceptable, it is nonetheless widely recognized that certain situations, usually related to social, political and cultural oppression as well as to severe economic inequalities, have the potential to create an environment conducive to the development of extremism. Brazil believes that our strategies to fight terrorism must also tackle, in an appropriate manner, the roots of terrorism, as this is the most effective long-term method of creating alternatives for individuals that might move them away from the use of this form of violence.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): Before I give the floor to the next speaker, I wish to remind representatives once again to limit their statements to five minutes.

Mr. De La Sablière (France) (*spoke in French*): I wish at the outset to thank the Chairpersons of the three Committees for their briefings, and I commend you, Mr. President, for having convened, for the first time, a meeting at which we can take stock of the work of the three Council Committees involved in combating terrorism. Although their mandates differ, it is important to have a comprehensive overview of the Council's work in this area.

Furthermore, our entire Organization must act within the framework of a comprehensive strategy, which the Secretary-General outlined at Madrid. We support his approach and agree with the importance he attaches to respect for human rights, which is not only an obligation on the part of States but also an instrument for the prevention of terrorism.

We share the Secretary-General's view that the international community must urgently agree on a definition of terrorism. We very much hope that an agreement will be reached during the September summit that will pave the way for the rapid adoption of a comprehensive convention. The General Assembly would thereby add a new element to the normative framework in that area, as it has just done through the adoption of the Convention on the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.

The Council has shown the importance of its contribution to combating one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. Its Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) has recently taken some important steps under the leadership of Ambassador Denisov and now Ambassador Løj. France is particularly pleased that the first visit on the ground fully met our expectations, thanks to outstanding preparations and full cooperation on the part of the Moroccan authorities.

The CTC has also been developing some best practices to combat the financing of terrorism. It is our hope that it will soon endorse the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering on this subject.

In order for the CTC fully to meet the expectations of Member States, it is more than ever critical that its Executive Directorate, created almost a year ago, be provided with all of the experts it requires. We endorse that statement made this morning by the Chairperson of the CTC in that respect.

With respect to the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999), we see two major areas where improvements might be made. The first has to do with the Committee's list. All Member States should undertake to provide to the Committee additional names and entities, giving the necessary information to identify them and establishing their link with Al-Qaida or the Taliban. The Committee's methods must also be improved in order to give rise, after a case-by-case analysis, to a more effective de-listing procedure.

The second area is that of fine-tuning the sanctions themselves. In a few weeks the Committee will begin to consider a draft resolution on this question. The Committee will be working on the interesting proposals made by the follow-up team experts. It could also suggest to the Council that it begin to focus on new issues in order to strengthen the combat against terrorism — for example, better oversight of MANPADs or of the Internet, or increased cooperation with Interpol.

The Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) has filled a gap in the existing multilateral machinery by addressing the risk of access by terrorists to weapons of mass destruction. The Committee does not intend to substitute for the responsibilities of States, but it does create an obligation for States to adopt the necessary legislative measures in many areas, such as border control, export control and the criminalization of proliferation.

The Committee is up and running, and experts have begun to consider States' reports. We will therefore soon obtain information that will allow us to progress in this crucial area.

Finally, I should like to emphasize that we believe that the three Committees and their experts must strengthen their coordination in areas of common interest and do a better job of exchanging information and experience. They are confronted with common questions: how to ensure that States meet their obligations; how to build States' capacities; and how to cooperate effectively with other international and regional organizations.

Joint reflection on this issue can only enhance the effectiveness of our actions. My delegation will continue to work within these three Committees with the following objectives: increased effectiveness in the combat against terrorism, with full respect for human rights; compliance with those obligations that are incumbent on every Member State; and full cooperation on the part of all in the combat against a scourge to which no one can remain indifferent.

Mr. Baja (Philippines): My delegation welcomes this initiative to hold a joint open briefing by the Chairpersons of the three Committees of the Security Council dealing with the issue of counter-terrorism, and we thank them for their informative briefings.

We share the view that global counter-terrorism efforts will be more effective if the efforts of these subsidiary bodies in pursuing their specific mandates profit from the enhanced cooperation among them.

In recognition of such synergy, resolution 1566 (2004) specifically called on these bodies to enhance cooperation with one another. I am particularly gratified that this call is being seriously heeded, as the work of the working group established pursuant to resolution 1566 (2004) will benefit from the wealth of experience of those three Committees.

As Chairman of that working group, I would like to acknowledge with warm appreciation the offers of cooperation by Ambassadors Mayoral, Løj and Motoc to the working group.

Allow me also to take this opportunity to express my delegation's appreciation for the exemplary work of the previous Chairmen of the Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1373 (2001); to offer my delegation's full cooperation to the new Chairpersons, Ambassadors Mayoral and Løj, respectively; and to reiterate our support to Ambassador Motoc, Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004).

My delegation also pays tribute to the respective groups of experts that assist the Committees in their

work. The expertise and objective perspective they bring to the consideration of the national reports submitted to the Committees are invaluable to the work of the Committees in drawing conclusions on how to make global counter-terrorism efforts more effective.

There is a lot to be learned from the sanctions Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities, as it is the Committee with the longest lifespan. Starting with resolution 1267 (1999), the sanctions regime directed at that time against the Taliban has undergone subsequent fine-tuning in response to the evolution of the modus operandi of Taliban and Al-Qaida terrorists.

Terrorist operations continue to evolve, and terrorist groups continue to mutate. Now Al-Qaida functions like a venture capital firm, providing funding, contacts and advice to many groups or individuals throughout the world. Such groups and individuals act in the style of Al-Qaida and follow its precepts and methods, but are only very loosely part of Al-Qaida.

My delegation looks forward to the negotiations on a new draft resolution to respond to this phenomenon. However, in drawing up the new draft resolution, it is also important to bear in mind not only reactive responses for more effective measures against those changes in modus operandi, but also the need to be more proactive and to examine the root causes of terrorism. Examining and addressing those root causes could have longer-term effects.

We welcome the adoption of the fifteenth work programme of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), under the able chairmanship of Ambassador Løj. In that regard, given that the effectiveness of the Committee in performing its mandate of assessing the compliance of Member States with the requirements of resolution 1373 (2001) depends, to a great extent, upon the full organization of the Counter-Terrorism Committee's Executive Directorate (CTED), which we hope can be completed as soon as possible.

The CTC also needs to explore other creative means by which to monitor compliance with resolution 1373 (2001) as it contends with "report fatigue" and the lack of expertise and capacity of some Member States to respond to highly technical questions. With respect to report fatigue, it is useful for the three Committees to exchange and share information and study the possibility of creating a common reports database. Common information requested by different resolutions can be identified and obtained from a report already submitted by a Member State. That could limit the repetition of questions to which States are required to respond.

My delegation is pleased that the much-awaited substantive consideration of national reports by the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) has commenced. We are all aware that resolution 1540 (2004) has given the Committee a two-year mandate within which to determine how Member States comply with the requirements of the resolution. Fulfilling the mandate of resolution 1540 (2004) to monitor the global effort to prevent nuclear, biological and chemical materials that can be used as weapons from falling into the hands of non-State actors to be used for the purposes of terrorism is important, but it could be complicated. In that regard, we hope the vital element of technical assistance provided for in resolution 1540 (2004) will be facilitated by the Committee, led by its dynamic Chairman, Ambassador Motoc, as soon as possible, in order to maximize its usefulness for Member States that need such assistance. In that way, the global capacity to prevent nuclear, biological and chemical weapons and their means of delivery from falling into the hands of non-State actors to be used for the purposes of terrorism could be enhanced. That is true as well with regard to the facilitation of technical assistance by the CTC in a wider counter-terrorism perspective.

Various aspects of the war on terrorism have had some significant success. Continued international cooperation among intelligence organizations and increased national security budgets have made it harder for terrorists to successfully organize and execute attacks or to move their funds across borders to finance those attacks. However, if countries are to win the war on terror, they must deny terrorists the support of local populations. They must combine the component of force with the component of cultural, social and even emotional aspects. They must limit an all-out war against the threat of terror in such a way that it does not violate human rights or seriously impinge upon the daily lives of citizens.

Finally, my delegation would like to see the incorporation of the activities of these subsidiary bodies within the comprehensive counter-terrorism strategy proposed by the Secretary-General.

Sir Emyr Jones Parry (United Kingdom): I would like to begin by associating myself with the comments to be made subsequently by the Ambassador of Luxembourg on behalf of the European Union.

I would like to welcome and congratulate the Chairpersons of the Al-Qaida/Taliban sanctions Committee, the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and the Counter-Terrorism Committee. I thank them for their briefings. I would also like to welcome Ambassador Baja's role, as well as his contribution this morning.

Terrorism and the risk of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) falling into terrorist hands remain ever-present threats — if you like, the ultimate nightmare. The Security Council, rightly, continues to put a sustained effort into that area. This morning's joint briefing is therefore indeed very welcome and demonstrates the range of ongoing work. Those Committees, and the work of their experts, share important common themes. It is worth ensuring that our work forms a coherent whole-Council effort. For instance, information submitted to each Committee must form part of a greater whole. It should amount to a single database of knowledge that States are sharing with the Council. Equally, the Council's relationship with States — through reporting and visits — must be mutually reinforcing between Committees, and not confusing to States or wasteful of scarce time and resources.

There are some clear messages that come out of the work of each of these Committees, and I think they are worth emphasizing.

The first is that the fight against terrorism requires an effort from every Member State. Terrorists prey upon States in the developing world as much as in the developed world. They move their money and they move themselves. They try to acquire the deadly tools of their trade. They identify weak links. The locations of recent terrorist atrocities demonstrate that all too well. Protecting States and individuals must be effected nationally. A huge amount of progress has been made in recent years, but we must not let up. The work of the Council and the Committees provide real assistance.

The second is that the Council recognize that many States will need help with this effort. It is a long-term effort requiring changes in domestic legislation and procedures. We may have be working on it for some years since the establishment in 1999 of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) and the Counter-Terrorism Committee in 2001. But we must strengthen the sense of urgency and effort and ensure that the provisions of those resolutions are implemented fully by all Member States. There is no shortcut. Those of us with the ability to do so must stand ready to help others. Committees are always keen to hear from States that need assistance, to enable us to facilitate its provision. The United Kingdom is also providing bilateral assistance.

The third is that international, regional and subregional bodies are good places for the establishment of centres of expertise and advice. Many international organizations have specialized knowledge and are already helping States with this challenge. The Council and its Committees have developed good working relations with many of those organizations, enabling the Council to draw on their expertise and experience in the various aspects of the task in front of us. All regional organizations should also be building up their expertise, so that they too can help their members.

The fourth is that the Committees can fulfil their monitoring mandates properly only if they receive the full cooperation of Member States. The required reports from States form a crucial part of the Council's information-gathering effort to enable us to monitor the overall state of the international community's readiness and ability to tackle terrorism and to help us identify where we collectively have to do more. We need information. Without it key parts of the international architecture to defend against terrorism may never be implemented. The willingness of Member States to share information with the Committees is therefore an earnest of their commitment to the full implementation of the Security Council's resolutions.

Lastly, a word on the recent General Assembly debate on freedom from fear. Today's meeting is exactly about how United Nations Members can help to put in place the architecture to help their people feel more safe. The United Kingdom supports the Secretary-General's proposals to put in place a comprehensive United Nations strategy against terrorism to run across the entire United Nations family. In that context, we welcome the recent adoption of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and look for early progress on the comprehensive convention.

In particular, however, we agree unconditionally with the Secretary-General's statement that terrorism is unjustified in any place, at any time and for any reason. Terrorist acts undermine the causes they purport to support. There is no plausible justification for acts of terrorism. We find this to be a simple statement of fact and unarguable. We hope very much to see heads of State underline that at the September High-level Meeting.

Mr. Holliday (United States of America): Following your guidance, Sir, I will submit a fuller statement to be circulated as a document of the Council. I would like to highlight a few key points.

First, I would like to thank all three Chairpersons for their presentations. Each Committee is engaged in important work to fight terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The fact that we are holding this meeting in this format demonstrates genuine progress towards enhanced coordination and cooperation among the Committees and their staffs — a factor crucially important to achieving the Council's counter-terrorism and counter-proliferation goals.

Regarding the Counter-Terrorism Committee, let me begin by thanking Ambassador Denisov and his staff for their able conduct of Committee business. Under Ambassador Denisov's chairmanship and the able stewardship of Ambassador Ruperez, the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate have made important progress towards enhancing monitoring of the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001). The first site visit occurred and was a notable success. Building on that success will require follow up. We are confident that Chairperson Løj will continue to lead us successfully in those efforts.

We look forward to the Counter-Terrorism Committee's producing best-practices guidelines to assist States in the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001). We hope that the Security Council will soon be able to endorse the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) special recommendations on terrorist financing and money-laundering as best practices, which States should consider following in taking action against the financing of terrorism.

That point relates also to the work of the 1267 Committee. Fundamentally, the best way the Counter-Terrorism Committee can contribute to the struggle against terrorism and help those on the front lines of that fight is by helping States to implement resolution 1373 (2001) and by holding those that fail to do so, or that will not do so, accountable.

Regarding the 1540 Committee, we commend Chairman Motoc for his leadership and the work of his delegation as well. The 1540 Committee plays an important role in efforts to stop the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Reporting to the Committee in a timely and complete fashion is important to its success. We and other States are ready to help those Governments needing assistance in that area.

Regarding the 1267 Committee, we thank Chairman Mayoral for his leadership and would highlight that the United States is devoting substantial resources to combating terrorist financing. We again emphasize the importance of the FATF best practices as guides for all States in that endeavour. We encourage States to submit names for inclusion on the consolidated list and remind States that they need to provide identifying and background information demonstrating the association of individuals or entities with Al-Qaida or the Taliban.

In conclusion, let me emphasize what we all know. None of our collective counter-terrorism efforts will succeed unless States make implementation of the resolutions the high priority it must be. We need a standard of accountability and compliance against which the efforts of individual States can be measured. Many States and organizations are ready and willing provide assistance to States needing help, and none should hesitate to ask for such help.

Mr. Denisov (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): At the outset, I wish to thank you, Sir, for organizing today's meeting and Ambassadors Ellen Margrethe Løj, César Mayoral and Mihnea Motoc for their in-depth and substantive reviews of the work of the Committees which they chair.

We are pleased to note that, today, we have a clear definition of the sphere for practical interaction between the related Committees, including an increase in the reciprocal exchange of information, cooperation among the expert groups, and the coordination of planned visits to Member States. We have taken steps to develop coordinated working methods aimed at the timely submission by States of their national reports on their compliance with obligations under the relevant resolutions. It is important in principle for us that the Security Council committees focus on close

cooperation with international and regional organizations and that they use their experience and potential to strengthen their dialogue with States.

I take this opportunity to thank Ambassador Ellen Margrethe Løj and other speakers for their favourable assessment of the 10-month Russian chairmanship of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC).

Thanks to joint efforts, the CTC has made important progress in the reform of the Committee, pursuant to resolution 1535 (2004), and in organizing new forms of dialogue with States. The Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED) has now been established and is working. Procedures and methodologies have been developed that have allowed us to launch the process of country visits. We have implemented new methods for expert assessments of States' needs for technical assistance, with the active involvement of potential donors. Finally, we have laid the basis for the qualitative expansion of the dialogue and practical interaction of the CTC with international and regional organizations.

We welcome the Danish chairmanship's focus on the ongoing further development of those approaches in the CTC's work. At the same time, we share the concerns regarding the delay in the staffing of the CTED. That unfortunate situation, as we see it, is due ostensibly to a number of reasons, but it must be given particular attention. The staffing of CTED will determine, to a critical extent, how effectively we will be able to implement all of the plans scheduled for that body.

The Russian Federation attaches great importance to the work of the 1267 Committee on sanctions against Al-Qaida and the Taliban. We favourably assess the work of the analytical support and sanctions Monitoring Team. We believe that its second report generally establishes a positive basis for the Committee's ongoing work and will enable us in the near future to prepare a new draft resolution under paragraph 3 of resolution 1526 (2004). It is important that we all share the general understanding that we cannot underestimate the scope or degree of the threat that Al-Qaida still poses to peace and stability.

The year that has passed since the Security Council adopted resolution 1540 (2004) has confirmed the timeliness of that initiative. An important step was taken towards strengthening the international legal basis in that area on 13 April, when the General Assembly adopted the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. We favourably assess the work of the 1540 Committee, which currently enjoys all the requisite authority and expert capabilities for the resolution's implementation. We attach great significance to the establishment of contacts and cooperation between that body and the CTC and other international non-proliferation and expert oversight mechanisms.

We believe that the practice of holding such Security Council meetings as today's on the work of its subsidiary counter-terrorism bodies must be pursued.

We are taking only the initial steps to coordinate the work of the Committees. The Council's ongoing attention will be instrumental for overseeing and facilitating this important process.

I note that my statement took exactly five minutes.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank the representative of the Russian Federation for using only five minutes.

Mr. Vassilakis (Greece): I too hope to follow the rule that you have set, Mr. President. I will distribute a longer written version of my statement.

At the outset, I would like to thank you, Sir, for organizing today's meeting, and I would like to express our satisfaction at today's joint briefing by the Chairs of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), the Al-Qaida/Taliban sanctions Committee and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004). I thank them very much for their precise and most informative presentations of the work of their respective Committees.

Greece fully associates itself with the statement to be made later in the debate by the Permanent Representative of Luxembourg on behalf of the European Union.

Briefings such as today's reinforce interaction and cooperation among the three Committees and their groups of experts and provide information and transparency with respect to their work, thus enhancing the Security Council's legitimacy in the fields of terrorism and weapons of mass destruction.

Greece strongly supports the development of a comprehensive United Nations strategy to combat terrorism that ensures strict consistency with

international law, due process and human rights standards and that addresses all factors that contribute to terrorism. Furthermore, the adoption by the General Assembly of a comprehensive convention against terrorism that contains a definition of terrorism would help worldwide efforts to combat terrorism in a most effective manner. The General Assembly's adoption this month of the Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (General Assembly resolution 59/290) is, in our view, a strong political signal from Member States that the General Assembly is the most appropriate forum for the elaboration of consensual legal standards for the global fight against terrorism.

The Al-Qaida/Taliban sanctions Committee has recently made many efforts to improve the sanctions regime, and we believe that Member States should fully cooperate with the Committee and its Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team, in particular through the submission of reports and new names of individuals and entities to be added to the Committee's list. In our view, the names of individuals and entities should be placed on the Committee's list only if they are accompanied with identifying information and background information demonstrating that those individuals and entities are associated with Osama bin Laden or with members of Al-Qaida or the Taliban, as noted in resolution 1526 (2004).

Greece welcomes the new Chair of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, Ambassador Ellen Margrethe Løj, and wishes her every success in carrying out her most demanding and difficult task. We also express our gratitude to the previous Chairman of the Committee, Ambassador Denisov, for the outstanding job he did during his chairmanship.

Over the past three months, the CTC has carried out some new activities aimed at improving implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) by means of an enhanced direct dialogue with Member States. On-site visits have already been initiated by the CTC Executive Directorate (CTED), pursuant to Security Council resolution 1535 (2004), with the consent of the States concerned. Those visits are an important way of assessing the further needs of the visited State in its implementation of resolution 1373 (2001). The first such visit, to Morocco, was a most useful one. In that respect, we are thankful to the Executive Director, Mr. Rupérez, and to his team for all their work and efforts. We would also like to thank the Moroccan authorities for their openness and cooperation with the CTED.

Another positive development in recent months has been the CTC's elaboration of new methods to determine the technical assistance and other needs of States in order to improve their counter-terrorism capacity. We support the Committee's programme of work for the next three months (S/2005/266) and the priorities that it sets out.

The proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) reinforces the non-proliferation regime and aims at preventing non-State actors from gaining access to nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery.

We support the quarterly programme of work of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and the activities that it sets out. In that respect, we welcome the recent recruitment of four experts of the Committee, who will begin examination of the first State reports.

Mr. Oshima (Japan): First allow me to thank you, Mr. President, for the kind words of sympathy and condolences that you expressed at the start of the meeting, and on behalf of Council members, in connection with the tragic train accident that occurred yesterday in western Japan. Your words and the words of Council members will be conveyed to my Government and to the families affected.

My delegation would like to express its appreciation to you, Mr. President, for convening this important meeting for a joint briefing, and I thank Ambassador Mayoral, Ambassador Løj and Ambassador Motoc for effectively guiding their respective Committees. I also wish to express our appreciation to Ambassador Denisov for the important contribution he made as the Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) through March of this year, as well as to his staff.

Today, the scourge of terrorism is a matter of increasing concern to the entire international community. The threat of terrorism continues to grow, as does the awareness of the need to fight it effectively. Hence the importance of a comprehensive counter-terrorism strategy. In that connection, Japan welcomes

the strategy outlined in the Secretary-General's speech in Madrid, described succinctly as the five "D"s. We also welcome the General Assembly's 13 April adoption of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (General Assembly resolution 59/260). We expect that Member States will join and implement all the related international conventions and protocols, which now total 13, as soon as possible.

Recalling the numerous tragedies caused to date by Al-Qaida and the Taliban, we fully support the work of the Al-Qaida and Taliban sanctions Committee. My Government appreciates the various activities undertaken by the Monitoring Team led by Mr. Richard Barrett, including the submission of its reports. We have actively participated in the work of the Committee to find ways and means of establishing more effective sanctions measures, and we intend to continue our active involvement. In particular, it is important that the contents of the consolidated list prepared by the Committee be expanded and improved so that the list can be of greater practical use to Member States in implementing sanctions measures.

One year after the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) was established, my delegation would like to express its hope that it will become fully operational under its Executive Director, Mr. Javier Rupérez, with the completion of the selection of qualified experts as soon as possible. We wish to take this opportunity to extend our appreciation to all those experts who have contributed a great deal to the work of the CTC to date and who have recently departed from the Committee.

Visits to Member States by the CTC — the first was to Morocco in March — represent progress in the work of the Committee, and we welcome that. Such visits are useful in strengthening the dialogue between the international community and the visited States, particularly for counter-terrorism capacity-building. We hope that more States will agree to receive visits by CTC missions in the future.

The role of the CTED as a clearing house for the provision of technical assistance should be strengthened. We hope to see, for example, the further development of cooperation between the CTED and the Counter-Terrorism Action Group of the Group of Eight.

Preventing terrorists from gaining access to weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery is a matter to be tackled with urgency, and Member States need to put in place or strengthen the appropriate domestic legislation and law enforcement systems in implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

National reports submitted to the Committee provide important materials to gauge the state of implementation in each State, and we welcome the fact that the Committee has begun its work in a substantive way by examining the national reports. Those Member States which have not yet submitted their national reports are called upon to do so as soon as possible. Technical assistance should be extended to those Member States, as required, in order to implement the resolution. My Government is engaged in focused efforts to strengthen the non-proliferation system in the Asian region through various cooperation and dialogue initiatives, such as export controls seminars and the Asian Senior-Level Talks on Non-Proliferation. We intend to continue to strengthen such efforts.

It is important to ensure that there is good coordination among the three counter-terrorism Committees in their respective activities, such as visits to Member States and needs assessments for technical assistance. This joint briefing today is therefore a welcome step.

My Government also attaches importance to cooperation with the working group established pursuant to resolution 1566 (2004) under the chairmanship of Ambassador Baja. Japan is determined to continue to extend full cooperation in this critically important area.

Mr. Baali (Algeria) (*spoke in French*): I would like to thank Ambassador César Mayoral, Ambassador Ellen Løj and Ambassador Mihnea Motoc for their excellent briefings, and to commend them for their efforts as Chairs of their respective Committees. And I would say that my delegation fully subscribes to the objectives of the three Committees, whose efforts are making an undeniable contribution to freeing mankind from the fears generated by terrorist threats.

With respect to the Al Qaida and Taliban sanctions Committee, I would like to once again point out the dynamic leadership of Ambassador César Mayoral and his team in accomplishing the mandate of the Committee. We would also like to commend

Richard Barrett and his team, as well as the other members of the Secretariat for their work and for the assistance that they have provided to the Committee.

We agree with Ambassador Mayoral that States that have not yet submitted their reports should do so as soon as possible.

We are pleased that the Committee has begun an in-depth analysis of recommendations contained in the second report of the Monitoring Team (S/2005/83, annex), and that some of these will, I am sure, find their way into the new draft resolution, whose objective will be to further strengthen the current sanctions regime.

We support the Committee in implementing its mandate and in carrying out the tasks before it. We encourage it to pursue dialogue with Member States to ensure that the sanctions regime is implemented. In this regard, Ambassador Mayoral should make full use of the effective tool of visits to selected countries to bring about this high-level dialogue.

We would also like the new draft resolution, which will probably be adopted next July, to take into consideration the recommendations of the Monitoring Group, so long as they are in conformity with the Committee's mandate.

With respect to the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), I would like to commend Ambassador Løj for the proactive way in which she has conducted the work of the Committee. I would like to take this opportunity also to thank the Executive Director of the CTC Executive Directorate (CTED), Ambassador Javier Rupérez, his team and the other members of the Secretariat for their support to the work of the CTC. We note that the CTC has taken some positive actions, including the following: strengthening dialogue with Member States; introducing new methods to determine States' needs for technical assistance, the first letters in which regard have been examined by Subcommittee C, which I chair; engaging in the dialogue with international, regional and subregional organizations; making efforts to strengthen the practical capacity of the Executive Directorate; and initiating best practices relative to the issue of the financing of terrorism.

We note that, in spite of the sizeable number of reports presented, 75 States are late in submitting their reports due to a lack of technical capacity, or, it must be said, to "report-fatigue". We urge the CTC to pursue its dialogue with these States and to continue to be proactive with respect to increasing the awareness of the regional organizations to which those countries belong. Here, we are pleased that the first visit of the CTED was to Morocco, our neighbouring country. Other visits are scheduled in the near future for Kenya, Albania and Thailand.

In this respect, we hope that States members of the Council, and thus of the CTC, will invite the CTED to visit their countries, because, in our view, these visits are an important tool for assessing implementation of the provisions of resolution 1373 (2001) by States.

We support the fifteenth work programme of the CTC (S/2005/266); we would be very pleased to see the Executive Directorate fully operational as soon as possible so that it better carry out the missions entrusted to it.

Considerable progress has been made since the adoption of resolution 1540 (2004) in terms of the international community's efforts to confront the threat posed by the acquisition of weapons of mass destruction by non-State actors. The measures proposed by that resolution are an effective response that can save us from the proliferation of such weapons. We are nonetheless convinced that the most effective way to deal with the problem is to completely eliminate weapons of mass destruction.

The establishment of the 1540 Committee and its three subcommittees, as well as the adoption of guidelines for its procedures and for the preparation of national reports, are accomplishments which testify to the momentum in implementing resolution 1540 (2004).

My delegation is pleased that States have expressed their support for the process initiated by the resolution by submitting national reports under paragraph 4 of the resolution. We hope that countries which have not yet submitted their reports will be able to do so as soon as possible. In this connection, it would be a good idea for the Committee to begin to consider the possibility of providing assistance to States that request it in complying with the provisions of the resolution.

We also welcome the Committee's decision to recruit eight experts to assist it in meeting the mandate

given to it; and we will give them our full support and our full cooperation.

Finally, we are pleased that the General Assembly has adopted by consensus the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (General Assembly resolution 59/290), and we hope that a draft comprehensive convention will be adopted, also by consensus as soon as possible.

My delegation supports the draft presidential statement that will be adopted at the end of today's meeting.

Mr. Adechi (Benin) (*spoke in French*): I thank you, Mr. President, for having organized this public meeting, which gives us an overview of the activities of the Security Council in the fight against terrorism. It indicates the cooperation that exists among the Council Committees that are following up the Council's resolutions regarding terrorism. This cooperation is necessary in order to coordinate the work undertaken by the Council. Exchanges among the Committees for the pooling and sharing of information and of experiences could indeed contribute to improving the coherence of the Council's action, which is indispensable to ensure the effectiveness of the fight against terrorism.

I want to thank Ambassadors Mayoral, Løj and Motoc for their briefings, which clearly show that concrete action has been undertaken in that direction, and that it will continue in order to enable the United Nations to remain in the forefront of the fight against terrorism.

Among the initiatives taken by the Council, the visits by Committee Chairmen to Member States are, in our opinion, a very productive practice. We favour the continuation of such visits, and we appreciate the careful planning efforts being made by the Chairmen of the Committees in coordination with the Permanent Missions of Member States.

We urge the Committees and their expert teams, in particular the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, to step up efforts with a view to enhancing the effectiveness of measures aimed at drying up the sources of terrorist financing and at preventing weapons, especially weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems, from getting into the hands of terrorists. There can be no doubt that the acquisition and use of such weapons by terrorists could have incalculable consequences for the entire international community.

It is essential that all States become involved in the Council's work, especially with regard to the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). Whether or not they possess weapons of mass destruction, all States should contribute to preventing the acquisition or the production of such weapons and their delivery systems by non-State actors. International cooperation in this area as well remains the best way to fight terrorism.

Regular contact among Council Committees should also facilitate the granting of appropriate assistance to Member States that need it in order to strengthen their national counter-terrorism capacities. In the vast majority of cases, that means helping them to draft appropriate national legislation and to establish national structures to monitor implementation. Such measures can represent a real challenge for some countries in terms of human resources, equipment and investment.

In addition to the individual mobilization of States, Council action to promote cooperation in the fight against terrorism must extend to regional and subregional organizations and specialized agencies, such as Interpol, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, whose activities are decisive if our objectives are to be achieved.

We welcome the advances that have been made in this domain. They will make it possible for the Council to broaden its field of vision, as well as its capacity to mobilize the international community and keep it in a state of constant alert in the face of the persistent threat posed by terrorism.

In this context, we support the effective implementation of the Declaration and Plan of Action adopted at the fourth special meeting on cooperation with regional organizations in the fight against terrorism, held at Almaty in January 2005.

From another perspective, the global crusade against terrorism must not be carried out to the detriment of humankind's achievements in the field of human rights, which our Organization has a responsibility to defend and promote. In this regard, we strongly support the proposal made by the Secretary-General in his recent report on United Nations reform

(A/59/2003) to appoint a special rapporteur on the question of the compatibility of counter-terrorism measures and the international obligations of States with respect to human rights.

In this context, it is important that the various counter-terrorism Committees continue with and step up the implementation of clear and transparent guidelines in carrying out their mandates, in order to ensure increased credibility.

The Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) should, for its part, apply clear and objective criteria in handling the list of individuals and entities linked to Al-Qaida and the Taliban as regards the inclusion and removal of names, as well as the impact on the list of legal decisions taken by Member States. That is indeed the substance of the question of listing and delisting — a question that arises in general terms with regard to the implementation of targeted sanctions established by the Security Council. It is important that that question be further considered at the proper level in order to rationalize Council practice in that regard.

In defining its action, the international community cannot disregard the urgent need to resolve problematic and dysfunctional situations within the international system that serve as a pretext for terrorism, because they are an obvious source of frustration. The international community must tackle social inequality, injustice, underdevelopment, dire poverty and conflict, which fuel violence and extremism.

At this time of debate about United Nations reform, those questions must be accorded particular attention as we assess threats whose elimination is necessary if we are to arrive at genuine collective security based on the rule of law in the service of human dignity, peace and sustainable development of all.

Mr. Mahiga (United Republic of Tanzania): I should like, at the outset, to pay tribute to Ambassador Andrey Denisov on the completion of his term of office as Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC). Despite the brief time that we worked with him in the CTC, we benefited greatly from his able leadership. We congratulate Ambassador Løj on her assumption of the chairmanship of the CTC.

We also welcome the comprehensive briefing of Ambassador Motoc, Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), and that of Ambassador Mayoral, Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999).

We are meeting following the adoption, two weeks ago, by the General Assembly of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (General Assembly resolution 59/290). We believe that that is another giant stride in our effort to deny terrorists access to the most dangerous of all weapons of mass destruction. That action confirms the importance of multilateralism and the collective response to shared threats and challenges in the international community.

The task ahead of us is demanding. It will be long and daunting. But we must persevere together in order to prevail in the war against terrorism. We are in total agreement with the Chairpersons of the CTC and the 1540 Committee on the need to finish the process of the hiring of experts. It is imperative that the Secretariat, working in close cooperation with the 1540 Committee, should give that matter the urgent attention that it deserves and ensure that it is given the necessary human resources to enable it to perform its work, bearing in mind that the mandate of the 1540 Committee expires in 12 months' time.

We are in agreement with the Chairpersons of the three Committees that cooperation at various levels is of the utmost importance and should be encouraged. Just as cooperation with Member States is important in the war against terrorism, cooperation between Member States and the Committees, as well as between Member States and international organizations, is important and necessary in this endeavour.

It is gratifying to note that the 1267 Committee is exploring diverse ways of combating terrorism by enlisting the expertise of other institutions to complement the work of the United Nations. My delegation commends the current initiatives by the Committee to develop cooperation with Interpol in order to synchronize related collective strategies and the exchange of information in dealing with the scourge of terrorism.

Transparency is the key to any meaningful cooperation between the Committees and Member States. In this context, I would like to stress the need

for concerted efforts to make the work of the Committees as transparent as possible, compatible with operational requirements. Briefings by Committee Chairpersons to Member States should continue and, whenever possible, should be held jointly, as was the case recently. We are also mindful of the need to safeguard and respect human rights and civil liberties while pursuing the war against terrorism.

In the case of the 1267 Committee, Member States have benefited immensely from regular interaction with the Committee's Monitoring Team, particularly in the preparation of their submissions and, to a certain extent, in reducing reporting fatigue. Dialogue should be maintained and technical assistance extended so as to ease bottlenecks and delays in reporting obligations.

Let me hasten to point out that the visit last February of the Monitoring Team of the 1267 Committee to my country was extremely important and helpful. The visit enhanced the operational effectiveness of many Government departments and their officials whose responsibilities include combating the menace of terrorism. Such visits should be encouraged in future for the purpose of building the capacity of Member States, as clearly demonstrated by the recent Monitoring Team visit to Tanzania.

As a victim of terrorism in recent years, Tanzania is committed to fighting that scourge. The Government has enacted legislation that conforms with resolution 1373 (2001) regarding the prevention and suppression of the financing of terrorist acts. In that respect, we support the adoption, as a set of best practices, of the special recommendation on terrorist financing of the Financial Action Task Force.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I shall now make a statement in my capacity as representative of China.

The Chinese delegation wishes to thank Ambassadors Mayoral, Løj and Motoc for their briefings on the work of the three Committees. We appreciate their efforts to advance the work of their Committees. On this occasion, I wish to make the following comments.

First, over the past few months, the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities, the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism and the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) have made positive progress in their respective fields and have played irreplaceable roles in ensuring the implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions. We express to them our appreciation for that. At present, the international fight against terrorism still faces an enormous task. As the Security Council's main mechanisms in the fight against terrorism, the 1267 Committee and the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) are entrusted with important mandates. We support the strengthening of the Security Council as the main forum for international cooperation against terrorism.

Secondly, with regard to the next phase of our work, we believe that, since the mandates of the three Committees, though different, converge in some areas, they should enhance their coordination and cooperation in areas such as collecting, exchanging and sharing information. We encourage the Committees to continue their dialogue with the relevant international and regional organizations and to improve their interaction and communications with the working group established pursuant to resolution 1566 (2004) in a joint effort to enhance international counter-terrorism cooperation.

Here, I wish to thank Ambassador Denisov for his contributions as CTC Chairman and to congratulate Ambassador Løj on her assumption of the chairmanship. I am confident that, under her leadership, the CTC will achieve even greater accomplishments.

We welcome the adoption of the CTC's fifteenth 90-day work programme (S/2005/266). We expect the CTC to finish as soon as possible its consideration of the reports submitted by Member States, to assist Member States — particularly developing countries — in carrying out capacity-building measures, to formulate specific practical measures and to undertake targeted actions to meet the needs of Member States.

It must be pointed out that, although more than a year has passed since the adoption of resolution 1535 (2004), the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) has yet to complete all its preparations and to become fully operational. That situation should change as soon as possible. We urge the Secretariat to accelerate the relevant processes.

Thirdly, resolution 1540 (2004) is of great significance in the promotion of international non-proliferation efforts. To date, more than 110 countries have submitted their initial reports. That fully reflects the importance that countries attach to the resolution as well as their resolve to implement it. We expect the 1540 Committee to step up its consideration of the reports submitted by Member States and to study ways and means to provide assistance to those Member States that need it to implement the resolution. China will continue to take an active part in the work of the three Committees, and we are prepared to join other members in a constant effort to enhance the comprehensive and effective implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions.

I now resume my functions as President of the Security Council.

As a measure to optimize the use of our time, I will not individually invite speakers to take seats at the Council table or invite them to resume their seats on the side of the Chamber. When a speaker is taking the floor, the Conference Officer will seat the next speaker on the list at the table. I thank members for their understanding and cooperation.

The next speaker inscribed on my list is the representative of Luxembourg, to whom I give the floor.

Mr. Hoscheit (Luxembourg) (*spoke in French*): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. The acceding countries Bulgaria and Romania, the candidate countries Croatia and Turkey, the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.

The European Union welcomes with satisfaction this first joint briefing by the Chairpersons of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities, the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism and the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004). We attach great importance to open Security Council debates on the issues of counter-terrorism and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction — particularly on the Committees' work in those areas. Such debates help to strengthen the general acceptance of the Committees by members of the United Nations family and help to enhance the Committees' legitimacy in their eyes.

Although the three Committees have different mandates, the European Union believes that they can further strengthen their cooperation — particularly at the expert level — in monitoring the implementation of their respective Security Council resolutions, in sharing information and in coordinating visits to Member States. Contacts should also continue with the working group established pursuant to resolution 1566 (2004).

We are deeply concerned that a number of countries are late in meeting their obligation to submit reports to the three Committees. We strongly urge those Governments that have not yet done so to finalize their reports and to request help if necessary. In that connection, the European Union invites the Committees to explore in a coordinated manner the issue of technical assistance and assistance needs assessment. I should also like to recall the importance of a broad and sustained dialogue with Member States and with international, regional and subregional organizations in order to strengthen counter-terrorism capacities. The European Union, for its part, is actively pursuing its relations with third countries — including through visits and direct dialogue — and is considering, inter alia, possible technical assistance.

The European Union welcomes the efforts undertaken to improve the sanctions regime against Al-Qaida and the Taliban and encourages Member States to cooperate fully with the 1267 Committee and its Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team, particularly by providing information and names to add to the consolidated list. If it is to be credible and operational, the list must be precise and based on the proper indicators. At the same time, the European Union is convinced that there is an urgent need to review the delisting procedures in order to improve them.

The European Union unreservedly supports the fifteenth 90-day work programme of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) (S/2005/266), particularly with regard to formulating a set of best practices to help States implement the provisions of Security

Council resolution 1373 (2001) related to the financing of terrorism and to other important aspects of the resolution. We are particularly pleased that the Committee made its first visit to a Member State — with the participation of the European Union — in March and that three more visits are planned in the near future. We strongly urge all components of the United Nations system to act swiftly so that the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate can become fully operational.

Given that terrorists have declared their willingness to acquire nuclear, biological and chemical weapons, the European Union underlines the crucial importance of resolution 1540 (2004). In that context, we welcome the fact that the 1540 Committee's first four experts have now been recruited and that the first reports submitted by Member States are currently being considered. The European Union supports the Committee's quarterly work programme and, in particular, the Committee's interaction with international, regional and subregional bodies in the area of non-proliferation with a view to strengthening the international non-proliferation regime.

Before concluding, I wish to make two more general observations.

As the Secretary-General rightly points out in his recent report entitled "In larger freedom", terrorism is a threat to all the values that the United Nations stands for, and our strategy to combat that phenomenon must be comprehensive and multifaceted and encompass the whole United Nations system.

The European Union fully supports the Secretary-General's call on Member States to agree, by the end of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly, on a comprehensive convention that includes a definition of terrorism. The recent adoption of the Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism represents an important step in the right direction. The European Union hopes that it will be signed and ratified without reservation by as many States as possible.

The EU is convinced that efforts to combat terrorism must respect human rights and fundamental freedoms. Counter-terrorism actions must at all times be accompanied by the respect of due process and the rule of law. There can be no trade-off between human rights and effective security measures. Indeed, respect for human rights must remain an integral part of any global counter-terrorism strategy.

The EU also believes that, in order to be effective in the long run, our response to terrorism must also address its root causes.

Allow me to conclude by commending the Chairpersons of the three Committees on their work and by reiterating that the European Union remains firmly committed to combating the continued threat of terrorism through a comprehensive and integrated approach that involves strengthening both national and international cooperation, in accordance with the principles on which the European Union is founded.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): The next speaker on my list is the representative of Chile. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Muñoz (Chile) (*spoke in Spanish*): Mr. President, allow me first of all to congratulate you on your conduct of the work of the Security Council during this month and on your initiative to present jointly the reports of the Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004), respectively. This is an excellent sign of transparency and coordination in the fight against terrorism.

I believe that there is also agreement on the importance of the contribution that can be made by the Working Group established pursuant to resolution 1566 (2004), and I extend my best wishes to Ambassador Baja with respect to the work that has just begun.

I wish to express my appreciation for the kind words about the work that I did in chairing the Al-Qaida Committee for a period of nearly two years. As I said before, this was not an individual effort, but, rather, a question of teamwork, since the members of the Committee and an efficient and professional Secretariat team made a vital contribution to the Committee's success, and valuable assistance was also rendered by the Monitoring Team.

I also extend my best wishes for success to the Ambassador of Argentina, César Mayoral, and his team. I am sure that they will continue to perform with dedication the demanding work called for in resolution 1526 (2004). I wish to reaffirm my own personal commitment and that of the Chilean Mission to support him in any way needed.

As you can well imagine, I wish to refer first to the Committee on sanctions against Al-Qaida and the Taliban.

It should be recalled that, with the adoption of resolution 1526 (2004), the Committee was given a much more demanding substantive and conceptual structure for the performance of its tasks. For the first time, new methods and a new modus operandi were introduced in the area of finances. Progress was made in terms of definitions, the provision of data and identification, and strengthened monitoring of the implementation of sanctions in order better to understand the needs and problems of States as well as the challenges facing them and to more effectively assist them in their work.

Visits to States by the Chairman of the Committee provided opportunities for learning about realities on the ground and for improving dialogue with countries, clarifying doubts, and establishing ties of confidence and communication with States. I am therefore pleased to hear of the forthcoming visit to be made by my successor to Europe and the Middle East.

I noted with satisfaction the holding of the first meeting with a Member State earlier this year, in accordance with the provisions of operative paragraph 11 of resolution 1526 (2004). I believe that this is the beginning of a process of dialogue that can grow in strength through the participation of an increasing number of countries.

We must take into account, as has already been stated here, that in June the Security Council will have to reflect on the future mandate of the Committee. I should therefore like to mention a number of points that, in my delegation's view, must be taken into account.

First, we must continue to urge States to observe international codes and norms for combating the financing of terrorism. Individual States, regional organizations and financial institutions such as the Financial Action Task Force have created a pool of international best practices, codes and norms that can be helpful and that should be taken into account.

Second, more decisive action is needed to prevent the abuse of non-profit organizations and of charitable organizations, and to monitor informal or alternative systems for the sending of remittances, perhaps by moving from recommendatory to mandatory language.

Third, it is essential adequately to address other new methods of financing for terrorist purposes, such as the trans-border movement of foreign currency. It would therefore be useful if States were required to establish criteria and procedures for monitoring the transport of currency.

Fourth, I believe that it is important to strengthen the element of due process with respect to persons on the list without detracting from the efficiency of the implementation of sanctions. In that regard, I should like to recall the offer made by Switzerland of technical assistance in the form of software for the immediate freezing of the financial assets of persons and entities once the appropriate decisions are taken.

Fifth, it would be useful to explore the possibility of creating incentives to increase the number of individuals and entities included in the list. It is evident that the 437 individuals and entities associated with Al-Qaida or the Taliban that appear on the list represent a small fraction of those that should be included. This should also be accompanied by qualitative improvement, including, as the Ambassador of Argentina mentioned, the status of deceased persons who are still on the list.

Sixth, I believe that it is also necessary to take into account the valuable recommendations made by the Monitoring Team in its two reports last year and to take into account many of the recommendations made by the Secretary-General in his report entitled "In larger freedom", including the need to reach a consensus definition of terrorism.

Seventh, it would be useful to have a strategy for requesting selective and specific reports, with a view to achieving greater effectiveness and preventing fatigue on the part of States due to excessive demands for reports.

Lastly, it is essential to address the vacuum that exists regarding what to do with individuals who, despite being on the list and the object of sanctions, move freely within certain countries even though they are wanted for terrorist acts in other nations. I think that it is important to consider the advisability of not granting political asylum to such individuals and to cooperate in bringing them to justice before the competent authorities in the countries in which they are wanted.

I wish to associate myself with those who have underscored the excellent leadership provided to the Counter-Terrorism Committee by Ambassador Denisov and his team and also to wish Ambassador Løj success in her new functions.

We acknowledge the work that has been done to complete the process of revitalization of this Committee, especially the progress made towards ensuring that the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate is fully operational. We appreciate the work done by Ambassador Rupérez in the Committee, for example, in identifying and tackling the problems encountered by States in the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) and in contributing to improving States' counter-terrorism capacities, as well as towards an increase in the number of accessions to and ratifications of international conventions and protocols.

We attach particular importance to the work being done by the CTC in the area of technical assistance to States. I have frequently noted the urgent need for such cooperation.

The Counter-Terrorism Committee has also set an example in terms of its ties with international, regional and subregional organizations.

With the adoption of resolution 1540 (2004), the Council decided that all States should establish national controls to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, in particular for terrorist purposes. This newest of the three Committees, under the capable chairmanship of Ambassador Motoc, has responded well to the demands of its mandate, and we wish it all the best. We agree that the Committee is complex and sensitive in nature, as it is operating in a relatively new field. I commend the Committee on the number of reports it has received and for the review currently being carried out by the Committee experts.

In closing, I wish to reiterate my satisfaction with the work done by the three Committees to implement their mandates, and in particular with the excellent spirit of cooperation they have demonstrated. Lastly, I would like to say that in the fight against terrorism, success in achieving objectives and the effectiveness of sanctions ultimately depend upon the States Members of the Organization. I think it will be a long struggle. Unfortunately, terrorist attacks are dramatic reminders that we must do much more through collective action and cooperation to defeat terrorism.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I now give the floor to the representative of Morocco.

Mr. Bennouna (Morocco) (*spoke in French*): First of all, I would like to congratulate you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for this month. We believe that the Council's deliberations will be successful thanks to your experience and widely acknowledged wisdom. I would also like to express our appreciation to the Permanent Representative of Brazil for the excellent manner in which he presided over our Council's work last month. I say "our" Council because it is the Council of the Organization, of which we are a part.

Morocco attaches great importance to the work of the Committees established by the Security Council through resolutions on the subject of terrorism. We are truly pleased with the President's initiative to hold this public meeting. That initiative now has a higher profile thanks to the recent publication of the Secretary-General's report entitled "In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all" (A/59/2005), in which the Secretary-General emphasizes the need for the international community to coordinate its efforts at all levels in order to confront international terrorism in all its aspects. In that connection, allow me to thank Ambassador Ellen Løj of Denmark, Chairperson of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, Ambassador César Mayoral of Argentina, Chairperson of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999), and Ambassador Mihnea Motoc of Romania, Chairperson of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), for the dynamism and inspiration they have brought to the work of their respective Committees since taking up their responsibilities.

We are mindful of the very serious threats posed by international terrorism to international peace and security — "new threats", as they have been called. In that regard, my country has always been resolutely and unambiguously committed to combating terrorism, which we condemn fully and regardless of its forms, manifestations or motivations. Any deliberate attack against innocent civilians that seeks to destabilize any socio-political system or specific country cannot be justified in any manner and must be condemned by the international community and must be punished.

On 16 May 2003, my country was victim of serious and barbaric terrorist acts that cast a pall over

the city of Casablanca and the entire Kingdom. Those attacks did not shake our firm conviction to pursue the building of a united and democratic society based on solidarity and imbued with the values of tolerance and respect for fundamental human rights. We are convinced that those who wrought terror in Casablanca, New York, Madrid and Riyadh are all of the same ilk. Terrorism feeds on xenophobia, intolerance and other forms of fanaticism. Terrorism is not unique to any single country, religion or culture. However, the very extent to which this new scourge has been organized through a transnational network makes it necessary to confront it in a spirit of solidarity, by pooling our information and uniting our efforts.

Combating international terrorism requires determined action by the entire international community, to which every country must contribute actively. Only cooperation among States will make it possible collectively to combat this scourge by implementing a multifaceted and comprehensive strategy. While States' individual efforts to combat terrorism indeed represent serious achievements, they are nevertheless quite insufficient. Morocco has therefore decided to build upon its national efforts by adopting and strengthening a regional approach that includes Euro-Mediterranean partners from our region, sub-Saharan African countries and countries of the nearby Middle East. Our approach to combating terrorism converges with the approaches taken by all of our other partners and strategic allies. It is built around the concept of comprehensive security and respect for shared values and international law.

We believe that, with its universal composition and the jurisdiction conferred upon it by the Charter, the United Nations remains the appropriate venue to marshal energies to combat terrorism. I therefore believe that the United Nations is irreplaceable. It is the appropriate framework to express the consensus of the international community and to develop a coordinated response by all States in the fight against terrorism while respecting the purposes and principles of the Charter.

My country, which has the privilege of presiding over the General Assembly's Sixth Committee, welcomes the Assembly's consensus adoption of the draft International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (General Assembly resolution 59/290). That adoption reaffirms the Assembly's important role in developing norms of international law, and thus strengthens respect for the primacy of law. We also hope that there will soon be agreement on the definition of the scourge of terrorism, so that we can adopt a comprehensive convention on terrorism as soon as possible.

With its unwavering commitment to international legality, Morocco has acceded to almost all international legal instruments on terrorism. We have also taken a series of measures to give form to the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, in particular resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1373 (2001), taking appropriate measures to incorporate them as an integral part of our national legislation. In that context, Morocco has complied with all the provisions of the resolutions and has cooperated fully with the mechanisms established to oversee their implementation. Morocco has now submitted four reports to the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), on 27 December 2001, 19 July 2002, 15 December 2003 and 20 October 2004. We also submitted a report to the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) on 24 July 2003, as well as a report to the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), on 28 October 2004. In accordance with resolution 1526 (2004), my country has also provided the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) with all the information requested in a list addressed to the Committee.

We have always fully and promptly cooperated with the Committees, whose missions may differ but whose objectives are the same. Indeed, on two occasions, from 31 October to 4 November 2004 and 3 to 5 April 2005, Morocco received experts from the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team that reports to the 1267 Committee. Furthermore, pursuant to resolution 1535 (2004), the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED), led by Ambassador Javier Ruperez, whom I welcome here today, conducted its first assessment visit to Morocco from 14 to 19 March 2005. It is a fact that, by choosing our country as the destination of its first mission, the CTC sought to pay tribute not only to Morocco's successful efforts to finalize its legislation and strengthen its administrative counter-terrorism machinery, but also to our openness to international cooperation in that field. In that regard, the Moroccan authorities were gratified by the professionalism and

rigor which the CTED experts demonstrated throughout their mission.

My country is satisfied with the mission's assessment of the reliability of the Kingdom's commitment to combating terrorism and our significant efforts in that area, undertaken within the framework of a comprehensive and integrated strategy for the social and economic development of our country. We are, moreover, determined further to improve the effectiveness of our administrative and legislative system, with the support of the international community. On behalf of my country, I affirm that we are at the disposal of the Directorate and the Committee.

We thank the Executive Director, Ambassador Javier Ruperez, and his team for the success of the assessment mission and we encourage more such visits, which we believe to promote direct and in-depth dialogue between the Committee and the national authorities of the countries visited, as well as the assessment of their needs for technical assistance.

In conclusion, Morocco attaches great importance to strengthening cooperation among the Security Council committees working on the various aspects of counter-terrorism. We welcome the progress made in that area, and in that respect subscribe fully to the provisions of resolution 1566 (2004), which explicitly requests the 1267, 1373 and 1540 Committees to enhance cooperation among themselves. Morocco trusts that the working group established pursuant to resolution 1566 (2004), chaired by Ambassador Lauro Baja of the Philippines, will be able to have a positive and synergistic impact on the three Committees.

The United Nations global strategy for fighting terrorism, outlined in Madrid on 11 March, must be further strengthened in order to meet the challenge of the new threats confronting the international community, and to do so — as we will continue to insist — in full respect of international law and universal norms on the protection of human rights.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I now call on the representative of Spain.

Mr. Yáñez-Barnuevo (Spain) (*spoke in Spanish*): Allow me at the outset, Sir, to express my pleasure at addressing the Council on behalf of Spain in this important debate under the presidency of China, a country for which we have great admiration.

I endorse the statement made by the Permanent Representative of Luxembourg on behalf of the European Union. My remarks should therefore be considered to be complementary to that statement.

I join in the congratulations offered to the Chairpersons of the Security Council Committees — Ambassadors Løj, Mayoral and Motoc — who, at this meeting, have for the first time provided joint briefings on the excellent work they are doing. I assure them of Spain's complete cooperation, whenever it is needed, as they pursue their important functions.

Spain attaches the utmost priority to the fight against terrorism within the framework of the United Nations. That priority was underscored once again by the fact that Madrid was the venue, from 8 to 11 March — precisely one year after the terrible terrorist attacks in our capital — of the International Summit on Democracy, Terrorism and Security. The conference, organized by the Club of Madrid — an entity composed of over 50 former heads of State and Government of democratic countries — sought as its main objective the specific goal of promoting a democratic and coordinated response to the global threat of terror.

In Madrid, with the assistance and participation of heads of State and Government, high officials — including the Secretary-General of the United Nations — and other important personalities, as well as experts from throughout the world, the so-called Madrid Agenda was unveiled. While drafted under the exclusive responsibility of the Club of Madrid, that document constitutes a call to action on political leaders worldwide and a programme of action for Governments, institutions, civil society and citizens, based on the inalienable principles at the very heart of the United Nations Charter and democratic societies. The recommendations of the Madrid Agenda are a powerful tool for raising awareness of and commitment to counter-terrorism. They deserve to be incorporated into and to enrich international debate and action led by the United Nations.

The Madrid Agenda, the distribution of which Spain has requested as an official document of the General Assembly and the Security Council, has also been incorporated into the agenda of the Ministerial Conference of the Community of Democracies, to be held late this month in Santiago, Chile. The Secretary-General expressly chose the Madrid Summit as the

occasion to outline the basic principles of the United Nations global strategy for fighting terrorism, in line with the suggestion made by the High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change in its report entitled "A more secure world". In our view, the Madrid strategy should be at the core of efforts to contribute, inter alia, to improving the effectiveness and coordination of agencies and organs of the United Nations system, allowing an integrated approach to the United Nations fight against terrorism.

In that regard, we believe that the current momentum in the process of United Nations reform should be exploited to take concrete and practical steps.

We believe that, pending a restructuring of the subsidiary bodies of the Security Council, it would be appropriate to take the initial step of unifying the administrative support structures of the three Committees. The Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, when adequately strengthened, could be responsible for providing all three Committees with the necessary assistance, taking care in each case to act in accordance with the mandate of the Committee concerned.

In a few months, the Council must consider the renewal of the mandate of the sanctions Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999). We believe that would be the right moment for the Council to request from the Committee a report identifying the obstacles it has encountered, things that could be improved and gaps in the Committee's work in order to improve and revitalize the Committee's functioning, thus enhancing its effectiveness.

Technical assistance in that area should be strengthened because, we must not forget, many Member States face serious difficulties in fulfilling their obligations under the Council's resolutions, not due to any lack of political will but, in many cases, simply as a result of a severe lack of resources. In that context, we regret that the recent report of the Secretary-General entitled "In larger freedom" (A/59/2005) did not take up the recommendation of the High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change to provide such technical assistance through the work of the Executive Directorate.

We should also briefly mention the importance of resolution 1566 (2004), which remains to be promptly and thoroughly implemented. With respect to the working group established pursuant to that resolution — to whose Chairman, Ambassador Baja, we offer our fullest cooperation — we request that due priority be given to providing the working group with the technical support it requires. That task could also be given to the Executive Directorate.

Finally, but most important, I cannot fail to refer to the challenge described by the Secretary-General: to pay greater attention to the victims of terrorism and to ensure that their voices are heard. The international community's recognition of the victims and their families and its solidarity with them must be one of the pillars upon which the United Nations bases its strategy as it works actively for the adoption of international measures and mechanisms for protection and assistance. It is also necessary to work to strengthen civil society's engagement in the fight against terrorism by promoting the participation of civil society groups, in particular victims associations, at the national and international level. Making that duty of solidarity with the victims of terrorism a reality has already been suggested by the Security Council in its resolution 1566 (2004) and by the Secretary-General when he stressed that urgent measures must be taken in that regard. It is our fervent hope that this will be acted upon.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I now give the floor to the representative of Liechtenstein.

Mr. Wenaweser (Liechtenstein): I thank you very much, Mr. President, for this opportunity to hear briefings on the work of the three Security Council Committees dealing with the issue of terrorism. Our thanks also go to the three Committee Chairs who briefed the Council and the membership as a whole this morning.

The recent adoption by the General Assembly of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (General Assembly resolution 59/290) is but one sign that the work of the United Nations in the area of counter-terrorism has gained new momentum. Over the next few months, we have to work hard to preserve and further develop that momentum in the intergovernmental process. At the same time, it is important to continue strengthening the operational capacities of the United Nations bodies involved. In that regard, we note with satisfaction recent developments in all three Committees, in particular the increase in expert capacity and

operational activities. While we join others in calling for greater discipline by Member States in reporting, we also underline that this must be accompanied by quick and thorough expert analysis of the reports once they are submitted in order to preserve the relevance of the dialogue.

In the current discussions in preparation for the summit in September, the fight against terrorism clearly figures among the most prominent issues. We believe that last week's discussions on the clusters of issues proved that there is strong momentum in that respect.

We share the sense of urgency felt by many with respect to the need to further strengthen our counter-terrorism framework, and we have welcomed the strategy of the five "D"s outlined by the Secretary-General. Progress is necessary in particular in the negotiations on a comprehensive convention on terrorism designed to fill the gaps not addressed by the 13 sectoral conventions.

At the same time, we are concerned that due process, human rights and humanitarian concerns are not addressed in an equally urgent and thorough manner. We have consistently held that the procedures regarding the listing and delisting of individuals on sanctions lists as well as procedures for humanitarian exceptions must be reviewed in the light of international legal standards of due process. That implies a minimum degree of transparency and independent review for decisions affecting the rights and the obligations of individuals, depending in particular on the gravity of the deprivation of rights. Improving those procedures will, in our view, greatly facilitate implementation of Security Council sanctions by Member States and strengthen the legitimacy of sanctions regimes. As a means of transparency, we have therefore requested that the list of pending requests for humanitarian exemptions in accordance with resolution 1452 (2002) be made accessible to all Member States.

Today's meeting addressing the work of all three relevant Security Council Committees is a clear sign that our efforts are moving in the right direction, in particular regarding coordination among the three Committees and their experts. It is also a welcome step towards a more comprehensive, transparent approach. In that respect, we express our appreciation for the scheduling of a meeting of the working group established pursuant to resolution 1566 (2004) on 27 April — this Wednesday — providing interested States with an opportunity to share their views on the future work of the working group. Indeed, the inclusion of a broad range of Member States in the Security Council's work on counter-terrorism is a crucial element for more effective decision-making and better implementation of its decisions. We thus look forward to continuing cooperation on this matter with the Council and its subsidiary organs.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I call next on the representative of Cuba.

Mr. Requeijo Gual (Cuba) (spoke in Spanish): My delegation wishes to thank the Chairpersons of the Committees established pursuant to Security Council resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004) for the information they provided at this meeting.

However, while we are here analysing actions to fight international terrorism, Luis Posada Carriles, one of the most monstrous terrorists of this hemisphere, is in Miami, in the United States of America. The lawyer representing him has even requested political asylum for his client, given the services that he performed for the United States for more than 40 years as a member of the Central Intelligence Agency and the United States armed forces.

In the name of the "war on terror", the United States Government has unleashed unilateral wars of aggression, in violation of the Charter and the principles of international law, in which thousands of people have died and continue to die, including more than 1,500 American young people.

Since last 11 April, the President of the Republic of Cuba has publicly provided abundant and reliable information on the criminal background of the terrorist Luis Posada Carriles, on the means he used to enter United States territory, and on those who, carrying out instructions of the terrorist Cuban American National Foundation, facilitated his voyage on board of the shrimping boat *Santrina* from Islas Mujeres in Mexico to Miami.

Therefore, my Government cannot understand why the United States Government has not taken action and has failed to conduct an in-depth investigation of the most recent voyage of the *Santrina*, and why it did not immediately detain and interrogate those who, like the well-known terrorist Santiago Álvarez Fernández

Magriña, known as a Miami resident, know Posada Carriles's whereabouts and who helped him in his illegal entry into the United States.

United States law is clear: to provide entry into the United States of an avowed terrorist, particularly someone as notorious as Luis Posada Carriles, is one of the most serious crimes that can now be committed in the country that was victim of the atrocities of 11 September 2001.

Resolution 1373 (2001), adopted by the Council on the proposal of the United States, is also clear in invoking Chapter VII of the Charter, categorically establishing the obligation of all States to take effective measures to prevent the transit of terrorists, to deny refuge not only to terrorists, but also to those who protect them, and to exchange information leading to their detention.

Moreover, on 26 August 2003, the President of the United States of America said: "If you harbour a terrorist, if you support a terrorist, if you feed a terrorist, you are just as guilty as the terrorists".

Posada Carriles is not unknown to Washington. He was trained and used by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) to carry out terrorist actions against Cuba for more than 40 years. He caused the in-flight sabotage of a Cubana de Aviación civil aircraft, in which 73 persons were killed, and a string of Havana hotel bombings in 1997, causing the death of the Italian tourist, Fabio Di Celmo. He has also planned many assassination attempts on President Fidel Castro; he was tried for one of them in Panama, but was fraudulently pardoned by then President Mireya Moscoso on 26 August 2004.

My delegation calls upon the United States Government, particularly its President, as President Fidel Castro has repeatedly been doing since last 11 April, to say whether or not it is aware of the presence of the terrorist Posada Carriles on United States territory, and to state the measures it is taking to locate his whereabouts in Miami.

We would consider it very serious, both for the actions being carried out by the United Nations against terrorism, and for the credibility of the United States Government in its self-proclaimed "war on terror", if Washington were to decide to harbour Posada Carriles or were to resort to cunning legal arguments to permit him to remain in the United States. Allowing this avowed terrorist to move freely, enjoying total impunity, while imposing long and unjust sentences on five Cuban youths fighting terrorism, is immoral and greatly irresponsible. It is an insult to all victims of terrorism the world over and their relatives.

United States authorities are facing a serious dilemma. Either they definitely align themselves with terrorism by protecting this person, or they strike a powerful blow, in compliance with their legal obligations, by arresting Luis Posada Carriles and extraditing him to Venezuela, where he escaped from prison in 1985.

My Government reaffirms its willingness to cooperate with the administration of justice by handing over all the information it has on this terrorist and urges the international community to remain alert to the possibility that Posada Carriles might quit United States territory with impunity or that he might be eliminated by internal forces in the United States to "solve" the dilemma in which he has dragged the Government of that country by his presence. We do not wish this man's death. We only want justice to prevail, and for him to pay for the horrendous crimes that he has committed during his long terrorist career.

Once again, my Government reiterates its request to the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) to evaluate the information submitted by my country, inter alia, in documents S/2002/15 and S/2004/753, in the hope that its work can lead to putting an end to the impunity enjoyed in the territory of the United States by those who have committed, and still commit, terrorist acts against Cuba.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I now give the floor to the representative of Viet Nam.

Mr. Nguyen Duy Thien (Viet Nam): I shall deliver a shortened version of my statement. The delegation of Viet Nam highly appreciates the efforts made by the 1267 Committee, the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) and the 1540 Committee in discharging the mandates entrusted to them by the Security Council in order to enhance the effectiveness of international cooperation in the fight against terrorism.

Pursuant to the relevant provisions of the resolutions concerned, Viet Nam has already submitted four reports to the CTC, one report to the 1267

Committee and one report to the 1540 Committee, providing necessary information relating to the efforts undertaken by Viet Nam in combating terrorism. We wish to assure the three Committees of Viet Nam's continued support and cooperation.

My delegation reaffirms the position of Viet Nam, which is to denounce every act of terrorism. Given the nature of present terrorist acts, more than ever the fight against terrorism requires a comprehensive approach, collective efforts and international cooperation, in which the United Nations should play a key role, with due attention paid to the root causes of terrorism.

To be effective this fight should be conducted in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law. Viet Nam is a party to eight international instruments on counter-terrorism. Necessary steps are being taken in preparing for accession to the other instruments with the support of the CTC and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

Last November, Viet Nam successfully organized a national workshop on accession to and implementation of international instruments on counter-terrorism. The competent authorities of Viet Nam are in the process of completing internal procedures for Viet Nam's accession to two other international conventions, the International Convention against the Taking of Hostages and the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings.

Viet Nam is continuing its cooperation on counter-terrorism in both bilateral and multilateral forums, including within the framework of the Association of Southeast Asia Nations, the Asia-Europe Meeting, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum and the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum. It joined the General Assembly consensus in adopting the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism on 13 April 2005.

Once again, my delegation would like to reaffirm Viet Nam's commitment to fully cooperate with the international community in general, and the Security Council and other relevant United Nations bodies in particular, in our common fight against terrorism.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): The next speaker is the representative of Venezuela, on whom I now call.

Ms. Núñez de Odremán (Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, in speaking today on the subject of terrorism, would like to reiterate its condemnation of that perennial global scourge. We have expressed our categorical condemnation of such acts, whether acts of State terrorism or other types of terrorism committed by non-State actors. Likewise, we have made clear our firm position of making a distinction between terrorism and the legitimate resistance of peoples to invasion and foreign occupation.

In accordance with our resolute commitment to fight terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has ratified many multilateral, regional and bilateral agreements on the subject, and has implemented resolutions adopted in the framework of the United Nations.

At the national level, we have developed a broad set of laws to combat terrorism and created a special administrative institution, as the national authority in this field, headed by the Deputy Minister of Citizen Security, within the Ministry of the Interior and Justice. We have done so in order to fulfil the commitments undertaken by the Republic to combat terrorism.

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is participating in today's Security Council meeting in order to highlight one act of terrorism that shocked the world, in particular the people of Latin America and the Caribbean: the shooting down in 1976 of a *Cubana de Aviación* aircraft. As we know, that crime was committed against 70 young Cuban athletes and people of other nationalities. They boarded the flight in Venezuela, but never reached their final destination, Cuba, because they fell victim to a terrorist attack. Many years have passed since that horrendous act, yet one of those responsible — Luis Clemente Posada Carriles, a Venezuelan national — remains unpunished. The Venezuelan justice system found that terrorist, Luis Clemente Posada Carriles, guilty of homicide, arms production and treason. He escaped from the Venezuelan prison where he was serving his sentence, later resurfacing in the Republic of Panama. The Government of Venezuela requested his extradition, but to date it has been denied by the Panamanian Government. Subsequently, after having been pardoned

in 2004 by that Government, the terrorist left the country.

Now, statements to the press made by the terrorist's lawyer, Eduardo Soto, make it clear that the terrorist is in the United States of America and that he has requested political asylum from the United States Government. Providing political asylum to that terrorist is not permissible under international law. It would also constitute non-compliance with paragraphs 2(c) and 3(g) of resolution 1373 (2001) of 28 September 2001, which prohibits States from offering refuge to those who commit acts of terrorism and which does not recognize political motivation as grounds for refusing requests for the extradition of terrorists.

The Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela hopes that the extradition requests made by our Government will be given due attention and processed by the Government of the United States, in accordance with the extradition treaty between the United States and Venezuela and in conformity with all other applicable norms of international law. In this regard, we hope that justice will be done with regard to the handing over of Luis Clemente Posada Carriles to the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, so that he can continue to serve his sentence in accordance with the Venezuelan penal code.

Mr. Dauth (Australia): I learned a long time ago that it was a very dangerous thing to come between Security Council members and their lunch, so I will be very brief.

This meeting gives us a valuable opportunity to highlight the importance of the three Committees operating in a coordinated manner, given the interconnected and complementary nature of their work.

The tasks facing the Committees reflect the serious challenge that the international community faces in addressing the threat to our peace and security from both terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, as well as the very real danger of a terrorist attack involving chemical, biological, nuclear or radiological devices. The General Assembly's adoption earlier this month of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (General Assembly resolution 59/290) is a welcome and concrete response to one aspect of that threat. It is a further example of the important role that multilateral instruments and regimes play in underpinning global counter-terrorism and counter-proliferation efforts.

In the face of a persistent and evolving — and I stress "evolving" — terrorist threat, it is absolutely vital that Member States, United Nations bodies and other international institutions work together to meet the challenge. Australia welcomes, in this context, the Secretary-General's comprehensive strategy on fighting terrorism and its recognition of the need to harness various elements of the United Nations machinery to address terrorism, including its chemical, biological, nuclear and radiological dimensions, in a coordinated and strategic way. Australia encourages ongoing efforts to ensure that the relevant United Nations mechanisms are best configured and equipped to meet this challenge, and to maximize the contribution that Member States can make nationally and regionally to countering terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Cooperation and capacity-building at the regional and bilateral levels are crucial to international counter-terrorism efforts. Australia is active in its own region, including in taking forward the outcomes of the February 2004 Bali Regional Ministerial Meeting on Counter-Terrorism. Co-chaired by Australia and Indonesia, the meeting established working groups on law enforcement and legal issues to promote practical counter-terrorism cooperation among Governments of Asia and the Pacific. It is a model. The legal issues working group is doing important work to promote and assist implementation of United Nations counter-terrorism instruments and more effective international legal cooperation. The Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement — another Australia-Indonesia initiative — was opened in July 2004 and is already proving to be a valuable resource, developing regional capacities to fight terrorism and transnational crime.

The Counter-Terrorism Committee, the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) can be assured of Australia's continuing strong support in their coordinated efforts to confront terrorism and address the threats posed by the spread of weapons of mass destruction.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): There are no further speakers inscribed on my list.

After consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council.

"The Security Council welcomes the briefings by the Chairmen of the Al-Qaida/Taliban sanctions Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999), the Counter-Terrorism Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) on the work of the three Committees.

"The Security Council reaffirms that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to peace and security and that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivations, whenever and by whomsoever committed.

"The Security Council also reaffirms that the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, as well as their means of delivery, constitutes a threat to international peace and security, as stressed in resolution 1540 (2004). The Security Council recalls its grave concern at the risk posed by non-State actors that attempt to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery.

"The Security Council welcomes the adoption by the General Assembly on 13 April 2005 of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, by consensus.

"The Security Council stresses the different mandates of the three Committees. The Security Council reaffirms its call for enhanced cooperation among the Committees, as well as their respective groups of experts, in monitoring States' implementation of provisions of the Security Council resolutions relevant to the three Committees, and invites the Committees, including their respective groups of experts, further to strengthen their cooperation through enhanced information sharing, coordinated visits to countries and other issues of relevance to all the three Committees. The Security Council also invites the three Committees to continue cooperation with the working group established pursuant to resolution 1566 (2004).

"The Security Council recalls the obligation of Member States to report to the three Committees in a timely manner on steps they have taken or intend to take to implement resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004) and related resolutions, and encourages the three Committees to consider, if appropriate, how to deal with late submission of reports to these Committees in a coordinated manner.

"The Security Council reaffirms that the responsibility for implementing the Security Council resolutions relevant to the mandates of the three Committees, including preparation of reports to the respective Committees, rests with the States. The Security Council encourages international, regional and subregional organizations to enhance their efforts to further their members' implementation of these Security Council resolutions, and further encourages such organizations, as well as States, where appropriate, to provide technical assistance to enhance the capacity of States to implement these resolutions.

"The Security Council welcomes the important contribution made by relevant international, regional and subregional organizations in the fight against terrorism and to ensure that non-State actors do not develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery. The Security Council encourages the three Committees to further strengthen the cooperation with such organizations.

"The Security Council further welcomes the important contribution made to the work of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) by the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1526 (2004) in application of its mandate annexed to that resolution; to the work of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) by its experts; and to the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) by the Counter-Terrorism

Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) established by resolution 1535 (2004), and notes with satisfaction the completion by the CTED of its first field mission to a Member State as contemplated by resolution 1535 (2004).

"The Security Council invites the CTC to pursue its agenda as set out in the work programme for the CTC's fifteenth 90-day period (S/2005/266). It encourages all parts of the United Nations to do their utmost to ensure that the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate becomes fully operational in the shortest possible time.

"The Security Council also invites the 1540 Committee to pursue its undertakings as provided in its first trimestrial programme of work, approved by the Committee on 22 April 2005. The Security Council welcomes the submission by 113 Member States of reports so far on steps they have taken or intend to take to implement resolution 1540 (2004) and calls upon States that have not yet submitted such a report to do so as soon as possible. The Security Council welcomes the recruitment of experts of the Committee and notes that they have begun to support the Committee in the consideration of the first reports submitted by Member States pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004).

"The Security Council invites the three Committees to continue reporting on their activities at regular intervals and, where appropriate, in a coordinated manner."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2005/16.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 1.30 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.5169

Security Council

Sixtieth year

Provisional

5169th meeting

Tuesday, 26 April 2005, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Wang Guangya	(China)
Members:	Algeria	Mr. Baali
	Argentina	Mr. Mayoral
	Benin	Mr. Adechi
	Brazil	Mr. Sardenberg
	Denmark	Ms. Løj
	France	Mr. De La Sablière
	Greece	Mr. Vassilakis
	Japan	Mr. Kitaoka
	Philippines	Mr. Mercado
	Romania	Mr. Dumitru
	Russian Federation	Mr. Konuzin
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Emyr Jones Parry
	United Republic of Tanzania	Mr. Maniga
	United States of America	Mr. Fendrick

Agenda

The situation in Côte d'Ivoire

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

05-32192 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Côte d'Ivoire

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I should like to inform the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria, in which they request to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the discussion, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Djangoné-Bi (Côte d'Ivoire) and Mr. Adekanye (Nigeria) took seats at the Council table.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure and with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, the Council has agreed to extend an invitation to His Excellency Mr. Aziz Pahad, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of South Africa.

On behalf of the Council, I extend a warm welcome to His Excellency Mr. Aziz Pahad.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Pahad (South Africa) took a seat at the Council table.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2005/186, which contains the fourth progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire.

I wish to draw the attention of members to photocopies of a letter dated 25 April 2005 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa addressed to the President of the Security Council, which will issued as document S/2005/270.

I now give the floor to Mr. Aziz Pahad, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of South Africa.

Mr. Pahad (South Africa): Allow us to thank you, Mr. President, for inviting the African Union mediation mission to brief the Security Council once again on the situation in Côte d'Ivoire.

On 28 March 2005, we informed the Security Council about the efforts that the African Union (AU) had undertaken to contribute to the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire (see S/PV.5152). On that occasion, we also informed the Council that the AU mediator, President Mbeki, was to convene an important meeting of the Ivorian leaders in Pretoria on 3 April 2005. We are happy to report that the meeting took place as scheduled, lasting for three days. Present at the meeting were President Gbagbo, former President Bedie, former Prime Minister Ouattara, Secretary-General Soro of the Forces nouvelles and Prime Minister Diarra. All of the principals were supported by their senior leaders, advisers and officials.

The outcome of the three-day meeting was the Pretoria Agreement, which the mediator has presented to the Council, requesting that it be endorsed and circulated as an official document of the Security Council. Without a doubt, the Pretoria Agreement represents new hope for the Ivorian people — who have long been yearning for a return to peace and stability in their country — and has brought a new urgency to the implementation of previous undertakings.

The Pretoria meeting was held in a very cordial and relaxed atmosphere. President Mbeki chaired the meeting and participated actively in the discussions. At times, the Ivorian leaders used the opportunity to have discussions among themselves on some of the long-standing and contentious issues. That in itself was a significant achievement, since these are parties that have not had the opportunity to exchange views in a long time.

Some of the key areas addressed by the Pretoria Agreement include the following. First is the joint declaration of the end of war, in which the Ivorian parties that are signatories to the Agreement declare their immediate and final cessation of all hostilities in their country. Second is the disarmament and dismantling of the militia throughout the country. Third is the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) of the armed formations, leading to the creation

of one army for the whole of Côte d'Ivoire. Fourth is ensuring security in the area under the Forces nouvelles. Fifth is the acceptance of a plan for the security of the Forces nouvelles ministers of the Government of National Reconciliation. Sixth, the parties that are signatories further committed themselves to making amendments to the composition, organization and functioning of the Independent Electoral Commission to ensure free, fair and transparent elections by 31 October 2005. Here, we must note that the parties requested the mediator to seek the assistance of the United Nations in the electoral process. Seventh, the agreement recognizes the important role of the media — particularly the Ivorian Radio and Television (RTI) — and agrees that the programming of the radio and television stations should cover the entire territory of Côte d'Ivoire. Eighth, the meeting discussed the finalization of the adoption of article 35 of the Ivorian Constitution. In that regard, the mediator was asked to make a determination on the matter after consulting with the Chairperson of the African Union and with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Let me now briefly indicate some of the progress that has been made since the signing of the Pretoria Agreement.

With regard to the very important issue of article 35, the letter setting out the mediator's determination on the article has also been presented to the Security Council with a request from the mediator that its contents also be endorsed and circulated as a document of the Council. The essence of the determination is that President Gbagbo would, after consulting with the President of the National Assembly and the Ivorian Constitutional Council, use article 48 of the Constitution, which would allow the Constitutional Council to accept the eligibility of the candidates who would be presented by the political parties that were signatories to the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement. Once the mediator communicated the determination to the Ivorian leaders, President Gbagbo engaged the broader Ivorian population in order to enlist their support for the determination. President Mbeki agreed with that approach.

President Gbagbo undertook a series of consultations with, among others, youth groups, trade unions, women's groups, traditional chiefs, members of Parliament and the military with a view to discussing the Pretoria Agreement and President Mbeki's determination. That process was instructive in that it provided a platform for the airing of different views — something that can benefit the democratic process in Côte d'Ivoire. The central message coming from all those groups is that President Gbagbo should, in the interests of peace, use article 48 to effect the amendment of the Constitution as determined by the mediator. It is expected that President Gbagbo will make a statement on article 35 soon.

Regarding the issue of the DDR process, the chiefs of staff of the National Armed Forces of Côte d'Ivoire (FANCI) and of the Armed Forces of Forces Nouvelles (FAFN) met on Thursday, 14 April 2005, as agreed in the Pretoria Agreement. The Prime Minister was accompanied by several ministers, who witnessed the event. A communiqué was issued at the end of the meeting of 16 April 2005 endorsing Pretoria's decision to renew contact between the two sides as well as the withdrawal of heavy weapons from the front line, and setting 15 May as the date for the commencement of the DDR process. The chiefs of staff have since held several meetings — some in the north and others in the south — to work out modalities for the implementation of the commitments made at Bouaké. The DDR programme started with the removal of heavy weapons from the front line, with effect from 21 April 2005. We believe that that development — which in itself symbolizes the beginning of the integration of the country — has enjoyed widespread support from the population and has generated new confidence in the peace process.

As part of our contribution to the peace process, the South African National Defence Force has invited the chiefs of staff to Pretoria to share with them our experience in the integration of armed forces. It is hoped that that step will consolidate the developing cooperation between the officers. The chiefs of staff, accompanied by five senior members from each side, arrived in Pretoria this morning and will begin their discussions sometime today.

In relation to the amendments to legislation, the Council of Ministers has started deliberations on the amendments necessary to ensure that the laws adopted comply with the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement and with the determination of the mediator in that regard.

Concerning the issue of the participation of Forces nouvelles ministers in the Government of National Reconciliation, we are happy to note that an

increasing number of ministers from the Forces nouvelles have returned to Abidjan to assume their ministerial responsibilities, including attending meetings of the Government of National Reconciliation. The specialized unit of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), in conjunction with the mediation, is working out additional measures for Mr. Soro aimed at ensuring his return to Abidjan so that he can take up his ministerial responsibilities.

I now turn to the issue of training units to provide close protection for ministers. In an attempt to contribute to the resumption of the functioning of the Government of National Reconciliation, the mediation has, at its own cost, undertaken to train members of the close protection units of all Forces nouvelles ministers. That training will take place in South Africa over a period of six weeks, starting on 2 May 2005. The training programme will also be open to protectors from the south, totalling approximately 135 personnel. We believe it is important that UNOCI work out modalities to complement that effort.

Regarding the role of the media, RTI has toned down its negative reporting and has begun to broadcast positive reports on the Pretoria Agreement and on its implementation. It is hoped that the situation will improve further once the amendments, as envisaged in the Pretoria Agreement, have been completed. Efforts are being made to procure technical equipment to upgrade systems and to ensure coverage of the entire country by RTI.

Let me now address the progress made with regard to some of the requests that we would like to present to the Security Council. There are two main areas in which the Ivorian leaders have asked the United Nations, through the Security Council, to urgently assist them. Those areas cover elections and security.

As we stated in our March presentation, any situation of protracted conflict, such as that in Côte d'Ivoire, invariably results in deep-seated mistrust among the political players. The request for United Nations assistance is informed by the need to ensure confidence as the Ivorians take the final steps towards the holding of elections in a peaceful and secure environment. All the Ivorian parties are intent on holding elections by 31 October 2005. The AU and the mediator support that view and hope that the United Nations will be ready to play its part in contributing to such an outcome.

On the issue of elections, the Ivorian leadership has, through the Pretoria Agreement, asked the mediator to request the United Nations to establish an impartial structure that would assist the Ivorians during the entire electoral period. It is envisaged that such a structure would assist the Ivorian Independent Electoral Commission, as well as the Constitutional Council, in the discharge of their functions, without being part of the two structures.

In the context of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement, the United Nations impartial structure would also assist in the process of streamlining the issuing of nationality documents and identity cards. The structure, it is hoped, would be empowered to assist both in the formulation and in the execution of policies and plans for the elections. It would be set up immediately and be required to intervene with the relevant Ivorian authorities where necessary.

On the issue of security, the Ivorian leaders ask for assistance in three areas that the mediator also supports.

First, it is necessary to protect the Forces nouvelles cantonment sites. The Security Council would need to consider the deployment of a special force under UNOCI to carry out that function. The presence of such a force would contribute to building confidence in the DDR process, which is critical to a peaceful transition in Côte d'Ivoire.

Secondly, the Ivorians request — and the mediator concurs — that assistance be made available for the recruitment, training and deployment of a police contingent of 600 personnel in the north, in order to avoid a security vacuum once the Forces nouvelles forces move into cantonment areas. It is envisaged in the Pretoria Agreement that the 600 recruits would undergo abridged training conducted by UNOCI. The new recruits would be mentored by UNOCI and serve under the guidance of the United Nations forces. Once normal policing has been restored in the north, those recruits would go back to the police and Gendarmerie academy for further training.

Thirdly, the assistance of the United Nations is sought with regard to the disarmament of the militias. The United Nations has the needed expertise to assist the Prime Minister in carrying out that objective.

Successful outcomes to those requests can be achieved only if the United Nations and the international community are ready to act decisively and urgently in support of the developments by, first, adjusting the mandate of UNOCI to cater for the election supervision mechanism and to support the disarmament of the militia; secondly, increasing the capacity of UNOCI to carry out the additional tasks emanating from the Pretoria Agreement; thirdly, actively participating in the policing functions in the north during the interim period; and fourthly, providing adequate and immediate funding for the DDR process.

In conclusion, let me say that once again we thank the Council for having afforded us the opportunity to brief it on the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire. As mediation, we are determined to ensure that elections take place as agreed, and we implore the Security Council to take the necessary decisions and steps to realize that objective.

We are confident that, working together, we can assist the Ivorian people as they search for an end to the crisis prevailing in their country. The African Union stands ready to act together with the Council to ensure that we realize this outcome for the benefit of the Ivorian people.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): The next speaker inscribed on my list is the representative of Nigeria. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Adekanye (Nigeria): I have the honour to address the Security Council on behalf of the Chairman of the African Union, President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria, on the issue of the African Union (AU) mediation mission in Côte d'Ivoire, led by President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa. I am glad that this meeting is taking place under the presidency of China, a country with which Nigeria enjoys very warm relations.

May I also seize this opportunity to thank the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of South Africa, Mr. Aziz Pahad, for his very detailed and informative report. It is indeed gratifying that Mr. Pahad is appearing before the Council for the second time in 30 days. This is testimony to the commitment of the African Union and, in particular, of its mediation mission to peace and stability in Côte d'Ivoire.

Nigeria identifies with the briefing just made by Mr. Pahad and, in that regard, is grateful to President Mbeki for the efforts he has exerted and for his commitment to peace, which, happily, have resulted in the Pretoria Agreement. Those efforts point to an unwavering faith in the capacity of the AU to find a peaceful solution to the conflict in Côte d'Ivoire.

The latest agreement signed in Pretoria by all the parties to the conflict marks an important milestone in the AU's efforts to find a peaceful solution to the crisis. We welcome the reaffirmation by the parties to the conflict of their commitment to the peace process, as provided for in earlier Agreements, namely the Linas-Marcoussis and Accra II and III Agreements. We note also that they have undertaken to follow and implement the road map elaborated by the AU mediator and endorsed by the African Union as well as to commit themselves to the October 2005 elections. Furthermore, in the Agreement the parties

> "solemnly declare the immediate and final cessation of all hostilities and the end of the war throughout the national territory."

These are indeed important undertakings, freely entered into by the parties.

Undoubtedly, the Agreement addresses whatever gaps existed in earlier ones. To reinforce this, concrete actions are needed. First, the leaders of the various parties to the conflict must go beyond merely appending their signatures to the document. They must display practical leadership qualities, including the political will to accommodate dissension. They must also show a readiness, when necessary, to make sacrifices for the common good. The long-suffering people of Côte d'Ivoire must no longer be made to pay the price for political differences among the parties.

We believe that the Pretoria Agreement offers the Ivorian leadership an opportunity to demonstrate their oft-repeated commitment to the interests of their fellow citizens by ensuring the faithful implementation of its provisions. It is also incumbent on the leadership to mobilize support at the grass-roots level for such peace efforts.

Secondly, the United Nations presence in Côte d'Ivoire should be strengthened and become visible throughout the length and breadth of the country. That would bolster confidence and trust among the parties

We have already noted some positive signs since 6 April. We believe that the initial discussions between the chiefs of staff of the Government forces and the Forces nouvelles on the launching of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) process took place in a positive manner. Dialogue has resumed, and it must continue and result in an effective renewal of cantonment and disarmament operations. Heavy weapons have already been withdrawn from the front line, which is tangible progress given the prevailing climate barely two months ago. In particular, President Laurent Gbagbo must very soon take a decision on President Mbeki's determination regarding the amendment of article 35 of the Constitution. That decision by Côte d'Ivoire's head of State will be decisive, and we await it with interest. We very much hope that it will make it possible to overcome one of the major obstacles once and for all. At the same time, the disarmament process must begin to go forward, which would be a clear signal that Côte d'Ivoire is once again finding its way.

I would like to conclude by emphasizing that the Council must today do its utmost to support the efforts of President Mbeki and to assist the Ivorian parties to succeed in making peace. What should we do? For one thing, as Mr. Pahad has just told us, the Council should continue to closely monitor respect for the commitments undertaken at Pretoria in the presence of President Mbeki. The Security Council must be vigilant, as is its role.

Secondly, in the coming days, the Council should renew the mandate of the impartial forces. My delegation will introduce a draft resolution on that matter this week. The Council must assume its responsibilities and give the United Nations a clear mandate to support the implementation of all provisions of the Pretoria Agreement. It is also essential that the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (ONUCI) be given all the means necessary to carry out its mission successfully. That means that, in addition to the Secretary-General's requests pertaining to security in Abidjan, strengthening ONUCI should make it possible to support the DDR programme and the holding of sound elections.

Côte d'Ivoire today has a chance to find the path towards peace and reconciliation. We must all take advantage of that opportunity. We are therefore pleased to note today the presence among us of Mr. Pierre Schori, the new Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Côte d'Ivoire. We congratulate him on his appointment and are pleased to see that he has already begun his difficult task. We wish him every success in his important mission.

Sir Emyr Jones Parry (United Kingdom): I would like to thank Mr. Pahad for his briefing, and the representative of Nigeria for the comments he made on behalf of the African Union (AU).

The Pretoria Agreement and President Mbeki's personal role in securing that Agreement are a very significant achievement that truly deserves all the congratulations of the Council. We now encourage, and expect, all the parties concerned to move forward urgently to the implementation of what has been agreed. If I may, I shall tackle the subjects by their relevant headings.

In terms of the reinforcement of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), the three areas where Ivorian leaders have asked for assistance in the area of security have been set out very clearly: protecting the Forces nouvelles, police recruitment and the disarmament of the militia. I think that what we now need is a considered recommendation by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and the factoring in of the previous elements. Previously, the rationale the 1,200 reinforcements was the deteriorating security situation. How do we now adjust our expectations given the Pretoria Agreement? As set out, how will the main tasks of the reinforcements influence the numbers and nature of the deployment? Indeed, how do we factor in the priorities of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) and the holding of the elections? It would be good to know as much as possible, as soon as possible, about the timetable for that necessary additional deployment and about the division of roles between the two forces present in Côte d'Ivoire.

On DDR, the naming of a date for its commencement — 15 May — is very welcome. DDR is a key factor in peacebuilding anywhere, but especially in Côte d'Ivoire. It is also crucial to the implementation of the Pretoria Agreement, which is a prerequisite for the holding of free and fair elections. A worked-up plan drawing upon the expertise and experience of South Africa, but going beyond that, including time lines and objectives, is very necessary. Then, of course, the key thing is implementation.

responsibility for the future of their country and the West African subregion as a whole.

Given the situation, the Security Council must reaffirm the international community's commitment to accompanying the Ivorian parties on their march towards peace. The new momentum injected into the peace process by the Pretoria Agreement must be fully supported by responsible work on the part of the Security Council in establishing provisions allowing effective action on behalf of the Ivorian parties in the context of the peace process in their country.

The United Nations must therefore contribute, to the extent possible and in an appropriate manner, as called for in the Pretoria Agreement, to training officers of a national police force for the Forces nouvelles, and supporting the organization of elections and the disarmament and dismantling of militias, not to mention the other functions recently entrusted to the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), in conjunction with the Licorne forces, including monitoring the arms embargo and supervising the national disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme.

From our perspective, the United Nations commitment will be an important part of building the confidence of the parties in the electoral process once they have resolved the difficult constitutional issue of article 35 of the Constitution. It will therefore be necessary for us to revisit UNOCI's mandate and consider the matter of strengthening its staff with adequate resources and means to undertake the specific and increased number of tasks which they have been instructed to perform.

In analysing the factors that distinguish the Pretoria Agreement from the other agreements reached earlier by the Ivorian parties, we find the close follow-up provided by the Special Representative and the mediator to have been critical. It would be useful for them to maintain their presence in helping the parties to manage the details of implementing the Agreement until the effective holding of scheduled elections in October 2005. In that regard, the arbitration to be undertaken in the preparatory process is extremely sensitive and it is therefore essential to help the Ivorians to rebuild the trust that has been lost between them. Generally speaking, it is extremely important that the necessary international follow-up measures on the Pretoria Agreement be speedily applied so that the parties can make judicious use of the brief time remaining to prepare properly for the elections, allowing them to be held on schedule in October 2005.

In conclusion, we reiterate our firm support for the African Union mediator. We welcome his committed efforts to achieve a peaceful resolution of the Ivorian crisis. We can say that the resolution of that crisis is within reach. The mediator deserves credit, and so do the Ivorian parties, who in signing the Pretoria Agreement demonstrated that they have faith in the future of their country.

Mr. Baali (Algeria) (*spoke in French*): First, I would like to bid welcome to Mr. Aziz Pahad and to thank him for his important briefing on the Pretoria Agreement and on the efforts of the South African mediation team to implement it.

I wish also to very warmly commend the Government of South Africa and President Mbeki for their extraordinary contribution to peace in Côte d'Ivoire. We also appreciate the efforts of the Ivorian political actors, who have demonstrated responsibility, and who have taken this final opportunity to conclude a political compromise, which will pave the way to a peaceful end to the crisis. This is not the time or the place to analyse the Pretoria Agreement and its relevance, particularly the arrangements intended to lift the burdens which have weighed on the process and which held it in perpetual jeopardy.

We consider that the Pretoria Agreement opens up reasonably promising prospects for a reactivation of the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire. Every effort must therefore be made to bring it to prompt fruition. All the actors responsible for its implementation must play their appropriate roles. It is clear that the Ivorian parties bear the major responsibility for the implementation of the Agreement, but the role of the international community, especially the United Nations, is just as important. One of the formidable challenges involved in supporting the implementation of the Agreement is that of maintaining confidence in the process by ensuring that each party shoulders its share of the responsibility in good faith and in a timely manner.

The armed forces of the two camps, as they have done in the past, have shown the way by scrupulously following the disarmament timetables. It is important for political leaders to fulfil their obligations. Indeed, success in carrying out this key element of the

settlement of the crisis depends on action with respect to the other provisions of the Agreement. Of course, there is the question of article 35 of the Constitution which we hope will be resolved tomorrow, as well as the issue of legislative harmonization so that October's elections will be held in proper conditions. It is encouraging to note in this regard that, in their aspirations to peace, Ivorians of all convictions have lent their support to the Pretoria Agreement. Ivorian political leaders, including President Laurent Gbagbo and the leaders of other institutions of the Republic, will be able to meet the legitimate expectations of the people for peace, security and development.

For its part, the international community cannot allow this historic opportunity to help Ivorians find peace and security slip away. More than ever before, it must be prepared to support the mediation in those areas where it has agreed to play a role in monitoring the implementation of the Agreement. In particular, it is important for the international community to clearly express its willingness to support the mediation in its role of arbiter, and to firmly support any decision it needs to take along those lines. The path of the implementation of the Agreement will be arduous and strewn with obstacles. Obstacles will arise, and they will be easier to overcome if the parties realize that the mediation is supported and trusted by the international community.

It is clear also that, in addition to political support, financial and technical assistance will be critical to bring the process to a successful conclusion. The programme of disarmament and the social reintegration of demobilized elements and members of dismantled militias, as well as the restructuring of the armed forces, will require considerable expertise and resources. The idea of temporary recruitment of 600 members of the Forces nouvelles, who, together with the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), would be responsible for security in the northern part of the country, seems to be relevant in three areas: this group would participate in the process of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR); it would strengthen the confidence of the Forces nouvelles in the process; and it would fill a security vacuum in that part of the country during the transition period. Implementing that plan will also require resources. The question of financing is especially urgent because international financial institutions have suspended their cooperation with the country. We therefore need to find a rapid solution to this problem.

Support for the electoral process is another element that merits the attention of the international community, especially since the United Nations will be playing a greater role in it. Every effort must be made to ensure that the elections take place on the scheduled date and in the best possible conditions.

To sum up, the prospects opened by the Pretoria Agreement and the priorities it sets mean that the international community will very probably have to modify its operation on the ground, including through the draft resolution that the Security Council is preparing to discuss in the next few days. Algeria is prepared to make an active and constructive contribution, as we are convinced that every effort should be made to help this country succeed in its peace initiative.

Mr. Kitaoka (Japan): As reflected in the Pretoria Agreement, the African Union and its mediator for Côte d'Ivoire, President Mbeki, have been playing increasingly important roles, which makes close coordination between the Security Council and the African Union more important than ever. My delegation, Mr. President, therefore greatly appreciates your initiative to convene today's meeting in such a timely manner. I also wish to express our appreciation to Mr. Aziz Pahad, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of South Africa, and to Ambassador Simeon Adekanye of Nigeria for their detailed and informative briefings. I would like to make three points.

First, Japan welcomes the Pretoria Agreement as a demonstration of the renewed commitment of all Ivorian parties to the peace process. We commend President Mbeki and the African Union for their tenacious efforts to promote the Agreement, providing a great example of an African problem being resolved by Africans. We are also encouraged by the first steps already taken by the Ivorian parties to implement the Agreement, such as the meeting held on 14 April by the National Armed Forces of Côte d'Ivoire (FANCI) and the Armed Forces of Forces Nouvelles (FAFN) on the implementation of the national disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) plan. It should be stressed nevertheless that it is critical to ensure full and prompt implementation of all commitments made in this and previous agreements. All the Ivorian parties should faithfully respect the provisions of these

agreements, including the decision by President Mbeki with regard to eligibility for the presidency. Japan is ready to consider further assistance for both DDR and the elections, depending upon developments in the situation in Côte d'Ivoire.

Secondly, as to the question of sanctions measures, it is not an appropriate time to immediately apply targeted sanctions against individuals, since the Ivorian parties have just shown their readiness, through the Pretoria Agreement, to revitalize the peace process. It should, however, be underscored that no further delay can be permitted in the preparations for the elections scheduled for October. All Ivorian parties must recognize that any delay in implementing the commitments made in the Agreement will render them immediately subject to sanctions measures.

Thirdly, concerning the role of the United Nations in the peace process, it is significant that the Ivorian parties have invited the United Nations to participate in organizing the elections. We look forward to receiving the views and recommendations of the Secretary-General in this regard, specifically with respect to how the United Nations and its mission on the ground can play an effective role in ensuring transparent, free and fair elections within the limited resources available.

At the same time, my Government is fully aware of the continued precariousness and, at times, volatility of the security situation in the country. As a result of our own careful assessment, based on the reports of our embassy in Abidjan and on information gathered through the mission that we sent to the country, are more than ever convinced that serious deliberations with regard to a certain level of reinforcement of the peacekeeping operation are needed. The Government of Japan is now ready to consider such reinforcement, although we think that, if the situation were not so precarious, better use could have been made of the $30 million in funds for the additional reinforcement — 20 per cent of which will be borne by Japan — for the reconstruction and development of the country.

We sincerely hope that the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire will be brought to an end by the successful holding of transparent, free and fair presidential elections and through the faithful implementation of the Pretoria Agreement and all previous agreements. We have no doubt that such a process will strengthen the democratic foundations of the country and help it to regain its place as an economic driving force for the entire western African subregion.

Mr. Dumitru (Romania) (*spoke in French*): Since the most recent public meeting of the Council on Côte d'Ivoire less than a month ago (see S/PV.5152), there has been significant progress in the situation in the country. We welcome this opportunity to meet again today to take note of those achievements.

In that context, we extend a warm welcome to Mr. Aziz Pahad, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of South Africa. We thank him for his briefing on the successful mediation of President Mbeki on behalf of the African Union. We would also like to thank the Permanent Representative of Nigeria for the message that he delivered on behalf of President Obasanjo.

The Pretoria Agreement has charted a course towards the restoration of peace in Côte d'Ivoire. After many months of political deadlock, there is now a glimmer of hope in that regard. We take this opportunity to pay tribute, with admiration and gratitude, to the outstanding efforts and perseverance of President Mbeki and his team in working to extricate Côte d'Ivoire from a calamitous situation that threatened to continue indefinitely.

The future priorities in Côte d'Ivoire are clear: the immediate launch of the disarmament process, including the disarmament of the militias, and its successful completion, and proper preparations for the elections in October. Given the new political dynamic since the Pretoria Agreement, all outstanding problems should be resolved in a speedy and responsible manner, including those related to the dispute with regard to amending article 35 of the Constitution.

Much ground has been covered between the signing of the Linas-Marcoussis and the Pretoria Agreements. We welcome the fact that the Pretoria Agreement constitutes a needed supplement to the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement. But it is clear that, after two years of repeated failure by the parties to fulfil their commitments, the gulf of mistrust between the parties cannot be bridged all at once. The reconciliation process will be difficult and protracted. The propaganda of hatred must be silenced and a new climate of tolerance built up gradually, so as to facilitate the reunification of the country.

The international community must remain vigilant so as to ensure that the military option is wholly renounced. Compliance with the arms embargo will continue to be strictly monitored by the Security Council. In that regard, we welcome the recent establishment of a group of experts, pursuant to resolution 1584 (2005).

The most recent developments in Côte d'Ivoire will have a direct and immediate effect on the situation of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI). Given the election timetable and the forthcoming launch of the disarmament process, the responsibilities of the mission will increase. We therefore agree with those who believe that the mission's resources need to be increased and its mandate revised. In this regard, we look forward to relevant proposals from the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. Romania is ready to take a constructive part in future negotiations on that subject.

The holding of free, open and transparent elections in Côte d'Ivoire is an essential precondition for the country's return to normality. This is a particularly difficult task given the requirements of the electoral timetable. Any approach must also take into account the risks of outbreaks of violence and social unrest associated with elections that have a significant political impact. We have already seen this in the subregion. Thus, proper preparations for the elections is crucial. International assistance is also vital, and in this context we support an increased role for the United Nations in this area. Cooperation among the African Union, UNOCI and the Security Council continues to be of particular importance.

In conclusion, a great deal is at stake for Côte d'Ivoire and for the region as a whole. Support has been offered by the international community and by the region. We hope that the Ivorian actors will continue to demonstrate a sense of responsibility by taking advantage of that support, for the benefit of the country.

Mr. Mayoral (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like first of all to thank Mr. Aziz Pahad, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of South Africa, for his briefing on the Agreement reached in Pretoria on 6 April among the parties to the conflict in Côte d'Ivoire.

We are gratified by the results of the mediation carried out by President Mbeki of South Africa on behalf of the African Union. In that regard, we believe that the Pretoria Agreement demonstrates the usefulness of cooperation among the Security Council, the African Union and subregional organizations such as the Economic Community of West African States in addressing collective security problems and developing effective peacekeeping and peacebuilding strategies.

We would also like to thank the representative of Nigeria for the message that he conveyed to us on behalf of the African Union.

The Pretoria Agreement not only declares a cessation of hostilities and an end to war, but also commits the parties to begin the process of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of militias, to amend article 35 of the Constitution concerning conditions for eligibility for the presidency, to guarantee the security of Forces nouvelles members of the Transitional Government and to carry out the reforms necessary for the holding of the elections scheduled for October 2005.

We believe that, once all of that has been accomplished, the spiral of escalating violence that we have recently witnessed will come to an end. In the Pretoria Agreement, the parties reaffirmed their commitment to comply with all relevant United Nations resolutions, the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement and the Accra II and Accra III Agreements; that gives us hope that on this occasion the parties will have the genuine resolve to fulfil their commitments.

Thus, we believe that it is more urgent than ever to provide all possible incentives for the parties to fulfil their commitments under the Pretoria Agreement. In that context, we believe that implementation of the provisions of resolution 1572 (2004) continues to be a relevant tool to that end. We also believe that, as the representative of South Africa noted, the mandate of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire should be modified so that the mission can monitor the elections and support the disarmament of the militias. We urge donor countries to make funds available in the near future to secure the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process.

We face a critical juncture for the future of Côte d'Ivoire and the entire region: the successful mediation of President Mbeki has created the necessary momentum for optimism about the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire. In that context, Argentina once again

welcomes the worthy efforts of the African Union to relaunch that process.

Finally, we believe that the citizens of Côte d'Ivoire must now act responsibly to achieve peace and carry out the process that will return them to the path of development.

Mr. Tarisse da Fontoura (Brazil): I welcome Deputy Foreign Minister Pahad and thank him and Ambassador Adekanye of Nigeria for their updates on the mediation process for Côte d'Ivoire. Less than 30 days after his first meeting with the Council, Mr. Pahad today reported on the positive developments that have taken place since then. My delegation praises the South African mediation, especially President Mbeki, for the results achieved so far. Together with the Ivorian parties, President Mbeki skilfully put together the Pretoria Agreement, which paved the way for the most recent determination with regard to the issue of eligibility.

Brazil commends the African Union for its increased leadership throughout the continent and for the strong support it provides for resolving conflicts by peaceful means. In so doing, the new organization consolidates its legitimate role in the promotion of peace and stability in Africa. Frequent and close dialogue between the Security Council and the African Union is proving to be extremely useful.

Let me turn now to developments in Côte d'Ivoire. The news is encouraging, and we reaffirm our hope that the political preconditions have been created for the holding of elections next October and for the return of peace, stability and normalcy in a reunified country. The Ivorian parties have to act expeditiously to enforce the decision allowing the participation of all candidates. We welcome the fact that the principle of the inclusion of all parties in the national reconciliation process is being observed, wisely adapted to be consistent with the text of the Constitution. These are essential landmarks for reconciliation and legitimacy in the years to come.

We are also very pleased with developments on the ground. We welcome the reconvening of cabinet meetings with the participation of ministers from the Forces nouvelles. At this stage, the full engagement of all political forces in the Government and in the Administration is a prerequisite for the delivery of services sorely needed by the population.

On the military front, we welcome the beginning of the withdrawal of heavy weapons from the front line as an important step. We strongly encourage the National Armed Forces of Côte d'Ivoire (FANCI) and the Forces nouvelles to make all possible efforts to comply with the calendar for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process agreed in Bouaké.

Finally, my delegation would like to reaffirm its belief that the Ivorian people and political parties are on the right path towards peace and sustainable development. The Council should continue to support their efforts and provide all suitable assistance that they may require to that end.

My delegation is ready to engage in negotiations on the approval of a new mandate for the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire.

Mr. Konuzin (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We are pleased to welcome the presence in the Chamber of the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of South Africa, Mr. Aziz Pahad. We thank him for his thorough briefing on developments in the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire and on the mediation efforts made by the President of South Africa, Mr. Thabo Mbeki. We also thank the representative of Nigeria for his valuable statement on behalf of the African Union.

The Russian delegation welcomes the outcome of the Pretoria meeting of the Ivorian parties and the steps that they have taken to break the impasse and advance the peace process through the practical implementation of the agreements reached in the capital of South Africa. We hope that the parties will comply unconditionally with their obligations by implementing the key provisions of the Agreement.

The major objectives now are to implement the National Assembly amendment to article 35 of the Constitution, which sets out the requirements for presidential candidates, and to launch the disarmament process. Resolving those issues will create the conditions necessary for implementing measures to overcome the de facto split in the country and will help in the organization of the presidential elections planned for October. Everything possible must be done to hold the elections on time since their postponement, especially an indefinite postponement, would threaten very serious negative consequences.

We deeply appreciate the work of President Mbeki in the Côte d'Ivoire mediation mission established under the auspices of the African Union. To a large extent, it was his personal effort that led to the positive outcome of the Pretoria meeting of all Ivorian parties.

Significant assistance to the Ivorian settlement process will be provided by the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire and the French forces supporting it. The mediation efforts of the Economic Community of West African States also play an important role in the peace process. Nevertheless, as important as external assistance to the Ivorian settlement process is, the greatest responsibility for seeking and implementing difficult decisions for a settlement of the crisis lies with the Ivorians themselves. We call on the parties to the conflict to maintain the positive momentum of the Pretoria talks until the end of the process and to demonstrate the political will fully to comply with their commitments in the peace process.

With respect to the Security Council, the Russian delegation is prepared to consider further tasks for the United Nations, including the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire, to support the settlement process.

Ms. Løj (Denmark): I should like to join others in welcoming back to the Council the representative of the Government of South Africa, Deputy Foreign Minister Pahad, and to express my gratitude for the encouraging and forward-looking briefing that we have been given today. Likewise, let me express our appreciation for the statement made by the representative of Nigeria.

It is clear that for the children, women and men of Côte d'Ivoire, bright white smoke was ascending from Pretoria on 6 April. There, under the effective mediation of South African President Thabo Mbeki, all the Ivorian parties apparently mobilized the much-needed political will and courage to give peace a chance in Côte d'Ivoire. We sincerely hope that this commitment by the parties will be sustained, and Denmark fully supports the Pretoria Agreement as a means to that end. We welcome the steps already taken by the Ivorian parties, including the revival of the Government of National Reconciliation, the pullback of weapons from the zone of confidence and the agreed time frame for disarmament.

Still, real and substantive challenges remain ahead. The details of the disarmament process have yet to be hammered out, and the legal foundation for the holding of free and fair elections has not yet been fully established. We urge the Ivorian parties to implement the peace agreements without delay, including the decision taken by the mediator on the issue of eligibility to run for the presidency. The schedule is compressed. No more time can be wasted before the election.

For the international community, there is now a peace to keep. The Pretoria Agreement calls for greater involvement by the United Nations in various aspects of the peace process. Denmark fully supports such increased involvement and will work to ensure the necessary resources to that end, in the belief that our nascent optimism about the peace process will be sustained. We support an appropriate strengthening of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) and an extension of its presence. At the same time, it is imperative that the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States — as well as other key regional and national actors — continue to stay involved and that they, together with the United Nations, develop a sound division of labour.

We should not forget, however, that there are still some developments that give rise to concern. I am thinking in particular about the situation in the western part of Côte d'Ivoire, where ethnically motivated violence seems to be continuing unabated. The transfer of weapons and of nomadic mercenaries, including children, appears to be continuing on the borders with neighbouring countries, especially Liberia. Those developments demand immediate attention by the Government of National Reconciliation and by international actors. We urge UNOCI to continue to cooperate with the United Nations Mission in Liberia on those matters and would also welcome a thorough assessment of the situation.

Finally, I should also like to underline that what my delegation has stated in earlier meetings remains valid. The measures provided for in the Council's relevant resolutions continue to apply. The arms embargo must be effectively implemented. We also persist in our belief that any failure to implement the provisions of the peace agreements should be met immediately with determined measures and that impunity must be ended.

Mr. Vassilakis (Greece): Greece welcomes the signing on 6 April of the Pretoria Agreement on the Peace Process in Côte d'Ivoire, the full implementation of which carries the prospect of a sustainable peace. It complements the Linas-Marcoussis and Accra III Agreements.

We express our deep appreciation to South African President Thabo Mbeki for his intense mediation efforts, which led to the rapprochement of the Ivorian political leaders and to the conclusion of this important peace Agreement. Many thanks go also to Mr. Pahad for returning to New York a second time and presenting an informative briefing on the outcome of the Pretoria negotiations. It is now up to the signatory parties to show the necessary political will to implement their commitments under the Agreement. That is the only way to end suffering, to restore peace, stability, democracy and national unity in all parts of the country and to contribute to real national reconciliation.

In Pretoria, the political leaders agreed to refrain from all military actions and to engage in a political dialogue that could produce tangible results and put an end to the long-standing conflict. They also agreed on very important issues: ensuring the implementation of the national disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) plan and proceeding immediately with the disarmament and dismantling of the militia throughout the territory. The meeting between the military commanders of both sides and the agreement reached at Bouaké on a provisional timetable for disarmament are first steps in that direction. We are looking forward to seeing the outcome of the upcoming May conference, scheduled to work out the details for implementing the disarmament agreements. In addition, the parties agreed to take measures aimed at holding free, fair and transparent presidential elections in October 2005. We welcome the provision relating to the presence of the United Nations in the organization of those elections.

As for article 35 of the Constitution of Côte d'Ivoire, we share the concerns of President Mbeki. We fully support the determination made by the mediator concerning that article as well as his request that President Gbagbo exercise his powers under article 48 in order to give legal force to that determination.

In the Agreement, the Ivorian political leaders reaffirmed, inter alia, their commitment to all United Nations resolutions on Côte d'Ivoire. We welcome that commitment. We expect that, this time, the political leaders will fully implement their obligations under resolutions 1572 (2004) and 1584 (2005). At the same time, it is important to remind all States concerned — particularly those of the region — of their obligation to report to the Committee established under paragraph 14 of resolution 1572 (2004) concerning the implementation of the arms embargo imposed by those resolutions.

In my capacity as Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1572 (2004), I would like to inform the members of the Council that the group of experts provided for in paragraph 7 of resolution 1584 (2005) has already been appointed, as of 18 April. Its members are ready to leave for the area in order to monitor the implementation of the arms embargo. It is important that the parties in Côte d'Ivoire and the other countries of the region cooperate with the experts so as to enable them to carry out their mandate.

I would like to emphasize the important role that the African Union is playing in trying to consolidate peace and stability not only in Côte d'Ivoire but also in the whole area of West Africa and in Africa in general. In that respect, we thank President Obasanjo of Nigeria for his efforts. We would also like once again to express our support for the ongoing efforts of Mr. Mbeki and for his leading role in finding a sustainable solution to the political crisis in Côte d'Ivoire on the basis of democratic governance, respect for human rights and commitment to the economic and social development of the country. We hope that the Agreement reached in Pretoria signifies the beginning of a new era for Côte d'Ivoire. I am sure that the Security Council will provide all the assistance necessary to guarantee a success story.

Finally, we congratulate the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Pierre Schori, and we trust that he will carry out his mandate in an excellent manner.

Mr. Mahiga (United Republic of Tanzania): It is less than a month since we last had a briefing from Mr. Aziz Pahad, South African Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and representative of the mediator of the African Union peace initiative in Côte d'Ivoire. My delegation welcomes Mr. Pahad to the Security Council once again and wishes to thank him for his second

briefing. We also welcome and endorse the statement made by the Ambassador of Nigeria on behalf of the Chairman of the African Union (AU), President Obasanjo.

During his first briefing to the Council, Mr. Pahad informed us, among other things, about the Pretoria meeting, which took place on 3 April 2005. The meeting produced the Pretoria Agreement, which was signed by all the parties on 6 April. President Mbeki has subsequently made a determination on article 35, a ruling that the Council should support. The Pretoria Agreement complements and has given a new lease on life to the Linas-Marcoussis and Accra Agreements and is paving the way forward in the peace process. The issue of article 35 is central to the conflict and critical to its political solution. It is our earnest hope that all the parties will be committed to the Pretoria Agreement and accept the ruling made by the mediator on the issue of article 35.

Getting an agreement from the conflicting parties is a positive development. But getting their firm commitment to live up to what they have agreed to is the real test and the best chance of ending the conflict peacefully. We pay special tribute to President Mbeki for his personal efforts, which contributed to the success of the Pretoria Agreement. In the same vein, we congratulate the Ivorian parties for their patriotism and for their commitment to the peace process in their country.

The positive developments that have taken place in Côte d'Ivoire within the last week are encouraging. The first is the assumption by Ambassador Shori, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, of his functions in Abidjan. The second is the opposition's joining the Government of National Reconciliation after a five-month boycott. The third is the positive outcome of the Bouake meeting between the Government and the Force nouvelles leaders, who agreed on a timetable for the implementation of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programme. Equally significant is the withdrawal of heavy weapons from the zone of confidence as the initial stage of implementing the DDR programme. These developments are a clear demonstration of the commitment of the parties to the Pretoria Agreement and to a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

It is our sincere hope that the DDR process will begin in earnest on 14 May 2005, as scheduled. It is of vital importance that the signatories to the Pretoria Agreement commit to the timetable of the DDR process. It is only through the successful implementation of the DDR programme and the restructuring of the army that the country can once again be reunified and the holding of the October election made possible. To give peace a chance, it is important that all the parties make their positions known on President Mbeki's ruling on article 35. The Security Council should give strong support to that ruling and underline the importance of elections within the agreed time frame.

The biggest challenge facing the international community in general and the Security Council in particular is to encourage the parties to move forward in the implementation of the Pretoria Agreement. The leaders of all the parties to the conflict must be encouraged to instil a sense of confidence among their followers in order to create a conducive environment for elections — the basis for a lasting peace in the country. We particularly urge the media in Côte d'Ivoire to support the recent peace accomplishments and to sustain their current positive tone, in a spirit of national reconciliation.

Now that the Pretoria meeting has succeeded in putting the peace process back on track, we need to revisit and consider favourably the Secretary-General's earlier recommendations that the Council approve the additional military, civilian police and civilian resources proposed in his third report on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire. The Council should also consider favourably the additional security requirements recommended by the Pretoria Agreement. Adequate security between now and the scheduled elections in October is critical, both for the DDR process and for enhancing public security.

We also support the recommendation that the mandate of UNOCI be extended for a period of 12 months following the current technical rollover. The extension of UNOCI's mandate will obviously help to guarantee a smooth implementation of the transition. It will also be necessary for stabilizing the country in the immediate post-election period and for laying the foundation for post-conflict peacebuilding and the reconstruction of Côte d'Ivoire.

Mr. Fendrick: We wish to thank first of all Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Aziz Pahad for his briefing. We commend the superb mediation that

President Mbeki has done on behalf of the African Union, and we also wish to thank the Permanent Representative of Nigeria for his briefing on behalf of President Obasanjo. We wish to pay tribute to all those who have supported these efforts, which have begun to bear some fruit.

My Government welcomes the Pretoria Agreement. We are encouraged by the constructive engagement that took place to build on prior promises to overcome disagreements. The Pretoria Agreement provides an opportunity to move events forward on the ground in Côte d'Ivoire.

It is too early, of course, to say that all is well. The parties have made important and serious commitments which must now be fulfilled. We call on the parties to abide by the letter and the spirit of the Pretoria Agreement in order to move the process begun by the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement to a peaceful and successful conclusion. A real cessation of violence is vital for this Agreement to succeed. It is for that reason that we are in agreement with President Mbeki's condemnation of ceasefire violations in November 2004 and February 2005. These are reminders of types of events which must not recur.

In that regard, we also commend the parties for their formal declaration of an end to hostilities. That is an important political statement, but it is action on the ground that matters most. We look forward to seeing that commitment to peace backed up by concrete action, in strict accordance with the Agreement.

Disarmament is certainly critical. We are pleased that the armed forces of both sides have resumed their discussions on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR), as promised in the Agreement. We commend the withdrawal of heavy weapons from forward positions by the National Armed Forces of Côte d'Ivoire (FANCI) and the Forces nouvelles. This is a good step in the right direction. We now urge the Government of Côte d'Ivoire and the Force nouvelles to honour their agreement to finalize their DDR plans. We are pleased that two ministers from Forces nouvelles have rejoined the Government, and we call for the full return of the Forces nouvelles to the Government.

We call on the National Assembly of Côte d'Ivoire to implement the required amendments to the Independent Electoral Commission and to adopt all other legislation necessary to conform to agreements that have been reached by the two sides.

We call on President Gbagbo to respect, implement and publicly support President Mbeki's determination on presidential eligibility. We look forward to the draft decree on the appointment of members of the Radio Télévision Ivoirienne board. We note that the Security Council continues to monitor the situation, including the arms embargo and the existing sanctions regime.

Mr. Mercado (Philippines): My delegation thanks the Chinese presidency for having convened this important public meeting. We welcome back to the Council Deputy Foreign Minister Pahad and thank him for his briefing.

We take this opportunity to acknowledge the unstinting efforts of President Mbeki in trying to find a way to move the Ivorian peace process forward. We also thank Ambassador Adekanye for his views and recommendations on behalf of the African Union (AU) as to how the Council could support the Pretoria Agreement.

The situation in Côte d'Ivoire has been and continues to be challenging. The mediation process has experienced its fair share of stumbling-blocks and failures. But, through the perseverance of President Mbeki, a breakthrough was achieved in Pretoria on 6 April last. My delegation welcomes this development and fully supports this peace accord. We hope that the parties will consider the Pretoria accords as the final guiding Agreement and unconditionally implement their commitments.

Allow me to share my delegation's views following the signing of the Pretoria Agreement. First, my delegation is of the view that there can be no military solution to the conflict in Côte d'Ivoire. We are therefore particularly encouraged by the commencement of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) of the National Armed Forces and the Forces nouvelles, starting with the four-day withdrawal of heavy weaponry from the front line on 21 April 2005.

Secondly, as all parties to the conflict have agreed to cease all hostilities, there should no longer be any recruitment of troops by any of the parties, including from neighbouring States.

Thirdly, the momentum gained from the signing of the Pretoria Agreement must be maintained. The major actors must realize the stakes involved and rise to the occasion. Trust must be established among the Ivorian parties. As Ambassador Adekanye of Nigeria said, sacrifices have to be made.

We hope that the major decisions on an important political issue in Côte d'Ivoire, namely, the amendment of article 35 of the Constitution, will be made in a statesman-like manner, taking into account the lessons of history.

Lastly, with less than six months left before the elections planned for October, my delegation agrees that the Council should urgently consider the mediation's request for assistance relating to security and the elections, in order that free, fair and peaceful elections can take place as scheduled.

We support the need to revisit the mandate of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire, and look forward to the report of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations on how the request for assistance by the mediation can be translated into concrete action.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I should now like to make a statement in my capacity as the representative of China.

The Chinese delegation welcomes the presence of Mr. Aziz Pahad, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of South Africa, as well as his briefing to the Council regarding the latest developments on the situation in Côte d'Ivoire.

The meeting held in Pretoria in early April made good progress. The Ivorian parties signed a peace agreement and declared an immediate cessation of all hostilities and the end of war throughout the national territory. China is very pleased at that development, and hopes that the Agreement will produce new opportunities to revitalize the Ivorian peace process. We very much appreciate President Mbeki's important role in that regard.

China has closely followed the developments in the Ivorian situation and sincerely hopes for the early restoration of peace and stability in Côte d'Ivoire. We are pleased to note that, subsequent to the signing of the Pretoria Agreement, Ivorian Government forces and the Forces nouvelles reached agreement on the withdrawal of heavy weapons, and that some ministers from opposition parties have returned to Cabinet meetings.

As the mediator in the Ivorian crisis, President Mbeki has taken important determinations regarding the eligibility of presidential candidates. The first priority is to expeditiously implement disarmament programmes in order that opposition parties may return to the Government of National Reconciliation, to secure appropriate settlements of political differences in accordance with the Agreement and to ensure that the October elections proceed smoothly. We believe that, so long as Ivorian parties act in good faith and effectively honour their pledges, the prospects for the Ivorian peace process will be bright.

Progress in the Ivorian peace process will require not just joint efforts from all Ivorian parties, but also continued assistance from the international community. The United Nations should continue to strengthen its coordination and cooperation with the African Union (AU) and other regional and subregional organizations, support and work with President Mbeki in his mediation efforts and back the AU's continued leading role. China stands ready to work with other members to continue to study the specific issue of the extension and reinforcement of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire, as well as to promote the Security Council's continued role in the resolution of the Ivorian issue.

I now resume my functions as President of the Security Council.

I now give the floor to the representative of Côte d'Ivoire.

Mr. Djangoné-Bi (Côte d'Ivoire) (*spoke in French*): As this is the first time I am taking the floor in the Council since your assumption of the presidency, allow me, Sir, to congratulate you on the well-deserved trust vested in you by your peers. I thank you too for allowing my delegation to participate in this meeting of the Security Council.

I wish also to thank Mr. Aziz Pahad, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of South Africa, who has briefed the Council on behalf of the African Union on the mediation so admirably and effectively carried out in Côte d'Ivoire by Mr. Thabo Mbeki, President of South Africa. Further, I wish to welcome Mr. Pierre Schori to New York and to express to him our appreciation for the heart and soul with

which he has embarked upon his mission in Côte d'Ivoire. We commend his impartiality and wish him every success in Côte d'Ivoire. I also thank Ambassador Simeon Adekanye, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, whose President, Mr. Olusegun Obasanjo, is the current Chairman of the African Union. For my delegation, his presence is one of the comforting signs of the significant role being played by the African Union in the restoration of peace and stability to Côte d'Ivoire.

An objective comparative analysis of the various settlement agreements concerning the Ivorian crisis signed by those referred to as the Ivorian parties to the conflict should convince the entire international community that President Thabo Mbeki has been able to achieve a result to benefit international peace and security that would have been unheard of not too long ago. Strengthened by the signatories' unconditional trust in a mediator sensitive to the cultural and sociological realities in Côte d'Ivoire, the Pretoria Agreement does not lend itself to any partisan interpretation. It therefore provides no pretext for either inaction or the placement of obstacles on the path towards national peace and reconciliation. Recent developments on the ground lead us to believe that the Pretoria Agreement is being implemented by all its signatories. Peace and reconciliation will therefore be achieved in Côte d'Ivoire through the unanimous resolve of Ivorians and the renewed support of the African Union and the international community, and in particular that of the countries of the subregion.

As Mr. Aziz Pahad has just noted before the members of the Council while speaking on behalf of the African Union — whose Peace and Security Council is honoured to be in partnership with the Security Council — Côte d'Ivoire's defence and security forces and the armed component of the Forces nouvelles have resumed contacts and relaunched the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) process from the point at which it was suspended several months ago. In accordance with the commitments undertaken at Pretoria and the DDR timetable jointly agreed at Bouaké on 14 April 2005, heavy weapons were withdrawn from the front line between 21 and 24 April and cantonment centres were identified. Moreover, and also in keeping with the Pretoria Agreement, the return to the Government of Forces nouvelles ministers, however modest at present, is today a reality, as evidenced by the last two meetings of the Council of Ministers.

Other developments contributing to the progressive and decisive completion of the DDR process in Côte d'Ivoire will follow, resulting in the reform of the security sector. In that regard, and just as in the case of the DDR exercise, the experience of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), the International Peace Academy and other international observers on the international stage attests to the fact that that reform, along with the DDR that precedes it, is the longest, most multidimensional and sensitive process in the protracted period of post-conflict peacebuilding and national reconstruction. For these processes to be successful, there will have to be close cooperation between the national community involved —Côte d'Ivoire in this instance — and the international community. Both of those protagonists will also have to demonstrate the same concerted action evoked by the Secretary-General in his new concept of collective and comprehensive security. The relationship between Côte d'Ivoire and international financial institutions will also have to be of the nature described by speakers who took the floor before me.

As regards the very sensitive point of article 35 on the conditions of eligibility to the presidency of the Republic, President Mbeki, the African Union mediator, made a decision pursuant to article 14 of the Pretoria Agreement and in consultation with the Chairman of the African Union and the Secretary-General of the United Nations. He informed President Gbagbo of that decision in a letter dated 11 April 2005. President Gbagbo is preparing to make a statement to the nation in support of peace, to be broadcast by radio and television on 27 April, following his meetings with the major stakeholders of the country.

Events in Côte d'Ivoire in the coming days and weeks will attest to the irreversible commitment of our people and Government to working for peace and stability in the subregion. Today, however, Côte d'Ivoire and West Africa need the active and creative support of the international community, including donors, the international financial institutions, the United Nations system and the members of this Council, which play a lead role and, whether they like it or not, have a responsibility as a global driving force, instigator and catalyst of the complementary interaction of the world's components. Their help and the steady political support of the great Powers are

essential if we in the subregion and in each of its nations are to succeed in the political transition and adaptation that our economies and societies require to the globalization of the economy, trade and information.

Extended to Africa as a whole, such joint cooperation by the key actors of the international community will restore peace and the conditions in which the Millennium Development Goals and the New Partnership for Africa's Development can be achieved. From that perspective, and pursuant to article 10 of the Pretoria Agreement, Côte d'Ivoire would greatly appreciate receiving expertise and assistance from the United Nations in the elections to be held in October 2005, in accordance with the terms of the Constitution. I pay tribute here to the exemplary cooperation being displayed by the Security Council, the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States in seeking a peaceful solution to the Ivorian crisis.

I cannot conclude without noting the need to standardize the command structures of impartial forces engaged in peacekeeping in West Africa and in Africa in general. Unified command of such forces strengthens their impartiality, makes their activities intelligible to the peoples being assisted in their peace-building processes, and creates conditions of trust by the people in those forces and of close cooperation with local populations. I hope that the Security Council will take account of that reality on the ground in its peacekeeping operations and of this request by my delegation in its forthcoming draft resolutions on African crisis situations.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I call on Mr. Pahad to respond to comments.

Mr. Pahad: We want once again to take this opportunity to thank the Council for its consistent support for Africa's efforts to resolve the Côte d'Ivoire crisis. I wish also to express our profound thanks to the African Union Chairman, President Obasanjo, for his consistent support for the mediation.

Again, I want to express our appreciation for the positive and constructive statements that have been made today. It is clear that, through our collective efforts, progress has been made in Côte d'Ivoire, but that, as has been said, many challenges remain. Africa therefore looks forward to working with the Security Council, the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Schori, to ensure that we achieve a long-lasting solution. That is very important because, as we all know, Côte d'Ivoire is very strategically situated, and positive developments there will have a positive impact on the whole region.

I also believe that, if we succeed in achieving peace and stability in Côte d'Ivoire, it will also have a positive impact on other countries that are emerging from conflict and attempting to work towards creating conditions for their elections. I refer here, inter alia, to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burundi and the Sudan. I am confident that the Council, being conscious of its responsibilities, will take the necessary decisions to ensure that elections do take place in Côte d'Ivoire by 31 October 2005.

We leave New York emboldened by the fact that the Council has indicated its support for the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire and that it will remain seized by Africa's efforts to find a solution. We look forward to a peaceful and stable Côte d'Ivoire because, as I have said, it is in the interest of all of Africa and it will have a massive positive impact on our efforts, as Africans, to find African solutions to the conflicts in Africa.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): There are no further speakers inscribed on my list. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council will remain seized of the matter.

The meeting rose at 12.10 p.m.

Security Council

Sixtieth year

Provisional

5170th meeting

Thursday, 28 April 2005, 10.35 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Wang Guangya	(China)
Members:	Algeria	Mr. Baali
	Argentina	Mr. Mayoral
	Benin	Mr. Zinsou
	Brazil	Mr. Tarrisse da Fontoura
	Denmark	Ms. Løj
	France	Mr. Poirier
	Greece	Mrs. Telalian
	Japan	Mr. Kitaoka
	Philippines	Mr. Baja
	Romania	Mr. Motoc
	Russian Federation	Mr. Dolgov
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Emyr Jones Parry
	United Republic of Tanzania	Mr. Mahiga
	United States of America	Mr. Holliday

Agenda

The situation concerning Western Sahara

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation concerning Western Sahara (S/2005/254)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

05-32533 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.35 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation concerning Western Sahara

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation concerning Western Sahara (S/2005/254)

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2005/254, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the situation concerning Western Sahara.

Members of the Council also have before them document S/2005/275, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by France, the Russian Federation, Spain, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. Unless I hear any objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by a show of hands.

In favour:

Algeria, Argentina, Benin, Brazil, China, Denmark, France, Greece, Japan, Philippines, Romania, Russian Federation, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1598 (2005).

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 10.40 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.5171

Security Council

Sixtieth year

Provisional

5171st meeting

Thursday, 28 April 2005, 10.40 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Wang Guangya	(China)
Members:	Algeria	Mr. Baali
	Argentina	Mr. Mayoral
	Benin	Mr. Zinsou
	Brazil	Mr. Tarrisse da Fontoura
	Denmark	Ms. Løj
	France	Mr. Poirier
	Greece	Mrs. Telalian
	Japan	Mr. Kitaoka
	Philippines	Mr. Baja
	Romania	Mr. Motoc
	Russian Federation	Mr. Dolgov
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Emyr Jones Parry
	United Republic of Tanzania	Mr. Mahiga
	United States of America	Mr. Holliday

Agenda

The situation in Timor-Leste

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

05-32539 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.40 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Timor-Leste

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Timor-Leste, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the discussion, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Guterres (Timor-Leste) took a seat at the Council table.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2005/99, which contains the progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor. Members of the Council also have before them document S/2005/267, which contains the text of a draft resolution prepared in the course of the Council's prior consultations.

I should like to draw attention to document S/2005/103, which contains the text of a letter dated 23 February 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Timor-Leste to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. Unless I hear any objection, I shall now put the draft resolution to the vote.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Algeria, Argentina, Benin, Brazil, China, Denmark, France, Greece, Japan, Philippines, Romania, Russian Federation, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1599 (2005).

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 10.45 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.5172

Security Council

Sixtieth year

Provisional

5172nd meeting

Friday, 29 April 2005, 10.30 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Wang Guangya	(China)
Members:	Algeria	Mr. Baali
	Argentina	Mr. Mayoral
	Benin	Mr. Adechi
	Brazil	Mr. Valle
	Denmark	Mr. Faaborg-Andersen
	France	Mr. De La Sabliere
	Greece	Mr. Vassilakis
	Japan	Mr. Kitaoka
	Philippines	Mr. Baja
	Romania	Mr. Dumitru
	Russian Federation	Mr. Denisov
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Thomson
	United Republic of Tanzania	Mr. Manongi
	United States of America	Mr. Holliday

Agenda

The situation in the Middle East

First semi-annual report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1559 (2004) (S/2005/272)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records*

[illegible] delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

05-32721 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.45 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in the Middle East

First semi-annual report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1559 (2004) (S/2005/272)

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Mr. Terje Roed-Larsen, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1559 (2004).

It is so decided.

I invite Mr. Roed-Larsen to take a seat at the Council table.

I welcome the presence of the Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. Kofi Annan, at this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2005/272, which contains the first semi-annual report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council on the implementation of resolution 1559 (2004).

At this meeting, the Security Council will hear a briefing by Mr. Terje Roed-Larsen, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1559 (2004). I now give him the floor.

Mr. Roed-Larsen: The twenty-sixth of April 2005 was undoubtedly a historic day for the Lebanese and the Syrian people and for the Middle East. The visible withdrawal of Syrian forces from Lebanon; Syria's formal notification of the United Nations, through a letter from Foreign Minister Al-Shara' to the Secretary-General, that Syria has withdrawn its military assets and the intelligence apparatus from Lebanon: these are unquestionably momentous events.

It was the Lebanese civil war that led to the deployment of foreign forces on Lebanese territory. Now, 30 years after the eruption of the civil war, a full and complete Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon would represent a significant and important step towards drawing a final line under the saddest chapter of Lebanese history. A full Syrian withdrawal would also represent significant and important action towards ending, with finality, the foreign interference that has characterized Lebanese politics for decades.

We therefore welcome the letter from the Government of Syria to the Secretary-General formally notifying him that Syria has completed its withdrawal of all its troops, military assets and the intelligence apparatus from Lebanon. We also welcome once again Syria's commitment to the full implementation of resolution 1559 (2004) and to the fulfilment of its obligations under that resolution.

In order to verify the full and complete withdrawal of Syrian forces, the Secretary-General has dispatched a United Nations verification mission. That mission, which was established in full agreement with the Governments of Syria and Lebanon, arrived in Damascus on 26 April. The Secretary-General has requested the Governments of Syria and Lebanon to cooperate fully with the mission and to provide all relevant information and documentation concerning the former deployment of Syrian troops, military assets and the intelligence apparatus in Lebanon. Both Governments assured the United Nations that they would assist the mission in its important task. The Secretary-General will forward his conclusions related to the Syrian withdrawal as a supplement to his present report to the Council in the near future.

A full and complete withdrawal of Syrian troops, military assets and the intelligence apparatus from Lebanon will require a wider-ranging redefinition of the long-standing close ties between Syria and Lebanon. In that regard, it is to be expected that the two countries will make significant progress towards the establishment of diplomatic representations in their respective capitals and towards an appropriate formalization of their special relationship. That, of course, is a bilateral matter.

In his efforts on the part of the United Nations

high priority to the provision of resolution 1559 (2004) that calls for the withdrawal of all remaining foreign forces from Lebanon; he has, overall, placed an especially strong emphasis on respect for — and the full restoration of — the sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and political independence of Lebanon. The withdrawal of foreign forces is a precondition for the restoration of the full sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of Lebanon.

Another such precondition, and a most visible indication of the sovereignty and political independence of any democracy, is the holding of free and credible parliamentary elections. The Secretary-General has therefore also assigned a very high priority to the matter of Lebanese parliamentary elections.

We commend the decision by Prime Minister Mikati's Government to hold the elections on time and as scheduled, beginning on 29 May 2005. We also welcome the unequivocal confirmation Mr. Mikati's new government has received in the Lebanese parliament, where it passed a vote of confidence with 109 to one votes, with three abstentions, on 27 April. We see the vote as a strong manifestation of the will of the Lebanese people and as an endorsement of Mr. Mikati's pledge to hold the elections on time.

We have been very concerned over a possible delay of the elections. Such a delay could have contributed to exacerbating the political divisions in Lebanon and have threatened the security, stability and prosperity of the country. It has therefore been the Secretary-General's strong conviction that the elections should be held on time and without delay.

The elections should also be held in accordance with an electoral law that is broadly accepted by the Lebanese people. Further, in order to ensure that the parliamentary elections can be conducted in a free and credible manner, we have been discussing with the Government of Lebanon the possibility of extending United Nations technical assistance. United Nations electoral experts will arrive in Beirut early next week, with the full understanding of the Government of Lebanon. Those advisors will seek to assist the Government in its preparations for such free and credible elections.

The Secretary-General has also encouraged the idea that international electoral observers be invited to monitor the elections. In close cooperation with constructive dialogue with the Government of Lebanon on that matter.

The parties have made significant and noticeable progress towards implementing some of the provisions contained in resolution 1559 (2004). However, we cannot yet certify that the requirements of resolution 1559 (2004) have been met. There has been a lack of progress on the implementation of other provisions of the resolution. We are also awaiting the report of our verification mission.

Regarding the Council's call in resolution 1559 (2004) for all Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias to be disbanded and disarmed, the United Nations has conducted a dialogue with some relevant parties on that matter. We have not yet reached operational conclusions on the matter, but expect that our dialogue on the issue will intensify in the coming months.

With respect to the Council's support of the extension of the control of the Government of Lebanon over all Lebanese territory, the Government of Lebanon does not yet fully exert control over all its territory. It is the Secretary-General's strong belief that more needs to be done to meet the Council's call for extended measures to ensure the return of effective governmental authority throughout the south of Lebanon. That would include the deployment of additional Lebanese armed forces, including along the Blue Line. We also expect the Government of Lebanon to extend its control over Lebanese territory vacated by Syrian forces.

In conclusion, allow me to reiterate the Secretary-General's call urging all parties concerned to comply with all requirements of resolution 1559 (2004) without delay. We also urge all parties, in keeping with the resolution, to fully implement it and all other resolutions related to the restoration of the territorial integrity, full sovereignty and political independence of Lebanon. It is our strong belief that the full implementation of all requirements of the resolution would help enable the people of Lebanon and of the entire region to begin setting aside the enchaining and constraining vestiges of a captive past.

It is also our belief that the full implementation of resolution 1559 (2004), with the backing and active engagement of the Secretary-General, would set an important precedent, illustrating the commitment of the international community to the full implementation of

me to reiterate the Secretary-General's belief that the implementation of resolution 1559 (2004) should continue to proceed in a way that would best ensure the stability and unity of Lebanon, of Syria and of the wider region.

The Secretary-General remains at the disposal of the Council and stands ready to continue to assist the parties in the full implementation of resolution 1559 (2004).

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank Mr. Roed-Larsen for his briefing.

In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I should now like to invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 11 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.5173

Security Council

Sixtieth year

Provisional

5173rd meeting

Wednesday, 4 May 2005, 3 p.m.

New York

President:	Ms. Løj	(Denmark)
Members:	Algeria	Mr. Baali
	Argentina	Mr. D'Alotto
	Benin	Mr. Zinsou
	Brazil	Mr. Tarrisse da Fontoura
	China	Mr. Wang Guangya
	France	Mr. Duclos
	Greece	Mrs. Papadopoulou
	Japan	Mr. Kitaoka
	Philippines	Mr. Mercado
	Romania	Mr. Dumitru
	Russian Federation	Mr. Denisov
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Thomson
	United Republic of Tanzania	Mr. Manongi
	United States of America	Mr. Holliday

Agenda

The situation in Côte d'Ivoire

Fourth progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (S/2005/186)

Letter dated 25 April 2005 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2005/270)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

Expression of thanks to the retiring President

The President: As this is the first meeting of the Security Council for the month of May, I should like to take this opportunity to pay tribute, on behalf of the Council, to His Excellency Mr. Wang Guangya, Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations, for his service as President of the Security Council for the month of April 2005. I am sure I speak for all members of the Council in expressing deep appreciation to Ambassador Wang for the great diplomatic skill with which he conducted the Council's business last month.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Côte d'Ivoire

Fourth progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (S/2005/186)

Letter dated 25 April 2005 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2005/270)

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Côte d'Ivoire, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the consideration without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Djacgomé-Bi (Côte d'Ivoire), took a seat at the Council table.

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2005/186, which contains the fourth progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire. Members of the Council also have before them document S/2005/282, which contains the text of a draft resolution prepared in the course of the Council's prior consultations.

I wish to draw the attention of members to document S/2005/270, containing the text of a letter dated 25 April 2005 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. Unless I hear any objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Algeria, Argentina, Benin, Brazil, China, Denmark, France, Greece, Japan, Philippines, Romania, Russian Federation, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America

The President: There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1600 (2005).

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council will remain seized of the matter.

The meeting rose at 3.20 p.m.